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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Off-island voters dismayed with late arrival of ballots

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While the Commonwealth Election Commission will have until Dec. 5 to collect absentee ballots of off-island voters to officially declare the winner of the runoff election, one thing is already known—a number of absentee voters weren't able to vote after they didn't get their absentee ballots before the Nov. 21 deadline to send them back to the Commonwealth.

One such absentee voter is Gus Litulumar, who currently resides in San Diego, California, but was assigned by the State Department to a Southeast Asian country during the election.

"It's disgusting! CEC and [the Legislature] could have amended the law and given more time for all

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Cleaning lady grabs $10K at Las Vegas Night

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Florevick Carino, a commercial cleaner at IT&E for the last 17 years, grabbed the top prize in Rotary Club's Las Vegas Night on Saturday night. She opted for $10,000 in cash over a brand new 2015 Hyundai Accent GLS.

What would she do with all that money? She would save it, she said, and send some to her two children in the

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Blackjack, roulette, Bingo, and Texas Hold'Em hold the attention of players and dealers at the Rotary Club's Las Vegas Night at Fiesta Resort last Saturday. Inset, Florevick Carino couldn't contain her joy upon hearing her name drawn for the top prize in the Rotary Club's Las Vegas Night last Saturday. DENNIS B. CHAN

CEC: No irregularity in Tinian vote count

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission has denied any irregularity that led to Joey Patrick San Nicolas being declared Tinian mayor by a mere seven votes.

Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty, counsel for CEC, asserted that Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz has failed to demonstrate actual prejudice in his complaint, making a recount necessary for the proper determination of the contest.

Dela Cruz failed to prosecute his eligible voter challenge in the manner provided by law, said Flaherty in CEC's answer and a motion to dismiss the mayor's lawsuit.

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The crowds of bargain hunters the day after Thanksgiving have thinned out.
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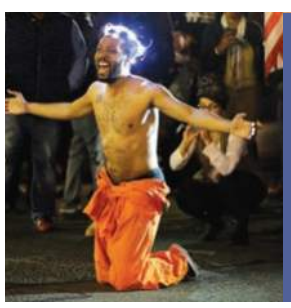

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The Ferguson police officer who fatally shot 18-year-old Michael Brown has resigned.
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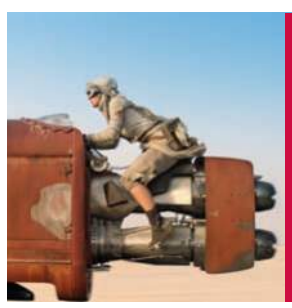

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An 88-second teaser kicks off the first look at "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."
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Local

Kilili: Helping NMC is top agenda for fourth term

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After helping the CNMI Public School System in his first three terms in office, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan will now focus his attention on working with the Northern Marianas College to improve the level of higher education in the Commonwealth.

"I never wait for Congress to start. I always do as early as I can what the agenda is for next Congress. Obviously it changes as we find out what is going to move. One of the things that I'm aware of that's been talked about, that there are going to make a real effort to pass, is higher education reauthorization so we really have to look at that. I'm senior enough to get into the subcommittee and I'm going to try and bid for a position in the subcommittee," he told reporters Wednesday at his office in Susupe.

If higher education is reauthorized, Sablan said he would like to put in two items that are a priority for NMC. That is, if NMC would allow him to work with them.

"I've got to find way to work with people of NMC. I can't figure out why exactly why I can't work with NMC the way I do with PSS. The reason I work well with PSS is because we're honest in our relationship and they're willing to identify and work with me on what it is that they need. I'm not saying that I would have the same relationship with NMC. There are other agencies that we work very well with."

Sablan said his relationship with NMC is a work-in-progress, but revealed that it has come to a point that he's been called names. He, however, said he is willing to reach out to NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart and the college.

"I've gotten lectures from NMC and not support. Yeah, me to work with them, they have to understand that I'm the one who's going to bat and not them. So they just can't come here and lecture me. They need to work with me. I've been told names, I've been told things but we'll leave that in the past. I already asked staff to open up communications with NMC and find out one or two things they think they need done."

Aside from his agenda on higher education, Sablan said he would first try to get a feel for the incoming 14th U.S. Congress before introducing any piece of legislation.

"Higher education, I'm trying everything to get us in there. There are other things I want to work on. I will not have a lot of bills to introduce in the very beginning. I will be very conservative on the number of bills I will introduce until I see the lay of the ground and decide what to introduce as we move along. It would be great if we prioritize higher education because there are things we could really do to help the Northern Marianas College," he said.

Dearth of workers

Sablan also gave his 2 cents worth on the mammoth $7-billion Saipan integrated casino resort development of Best Sunshine International, Ltd. and the big question how and where it will get the 9,000 or so workers it needs.

"We have a problem here where the Commonwealth government deciding to expand economic development and when I talk about expansion I'm talking about huge expansion. I don't know if we'll get to $7 billion on this casino proposal. It is huge and they're going to need workers and they're going to need access to tourists."

Currently, the cap of H workers in the entire U.S. is 65,000 and not all workers Best Sunshine is looking to bring in to the CNMI can qualify for H visas.

See KILILI on Page 4

MARK RABAGO

From left, CNMI Operation Homefront Support founder Geri Lynn Willis, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Operation Homefront coordinator Nola K. Hix, and a serviceman pose with the donation of cookies from Sablan at the delegate's office in Susupe Wednesday.

Kilili donates cookies to Operation Homefront

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) on Wednesday donated locally made cookies to the CNMI Operation Homefront Support, saying it has been his habit to donate bags of cookies to the group since he came to office in 2009.

"We chip in cookies basically. If there were 300 servicemen and servicewomen, each one will get three. There are three different kinds here. We get them from Herman's Bakery and we've got chocolate chip, Chamorro cookies, and macaroons. I've been doing that for years," he said during a simple turnover ceremony at Sablan's office in Susupe.

He said the sons and daughters of the CNMI serving in the military are very important to him and sending cookies and whatnot to them during the holidays is a simple yet huge gesture.

"We need to let our servicemen and servicewomen know that they're in our thoughts. We're thankful for their service to our country and some of them are in danger zones. Some of them are not but we're still grateful for their service."

Sablan said a friend of his is serving in the military and is actually in Liberia.

"She sent me an email that she's there. So we sent her name to Operation Homefront to make sure she gets a package. We've got servicemen and servicewomen all over the world that we need to give these care packages to."

CNMI Operation Homefront founder Geri Lynn Willis as well as current coordinator Nola Hix were on hand to receive the donation.

"We're getting all sorts of things from community members. Everything from soba to chicharon to rice crackers, to Diamond Tuna, Spam, and newspapers and magazines. The outpouring of help from the community is just amazing," she said.

Willis thanked Sablan for the donation. "We really appreciate Congressman Kilili's support through the years. They're all cookies and all sorts of cookies. It's our seventh year and we have sent 2,000 care packages to date."

CNMI Operation Homefront Support is still taking donations and will have its annual packaging event on Dec. 6 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe from 8am to 10am.

Last year Operation Homefront sent out 280 care packages. For more information or for donation, contact Hix at 989-6552 or email her at nola.hix@gmail.com.

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Korea Outdoor Advertising Campaign

To draw attention to **Asiana Airlines'** Busan-Saipan route, outdoor advertising campaign on buses and subway station walls and doors was conducted in November 2014 in **Busan** and **Youngnam**. In conjunction with the campaign, the Marianas Visitors Authority advertised the flight schedule on its online channels.

In Fiscal Year 2014, visitors from Korea comprised 31 percent of total visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI). In October 2014, 12,557 visitors from Korea came to the NMI, a 10 percent increase compared to October 2013. Arrivals from Korea are projected to increase slightly in Fiscal Year 2015.

Event Banner at bottom of page entitled:
Christmas in the Marianas
Paseo de Marianas
Every Saturday in December

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Lenient sentence sought for man convicted of selling 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defense attorney Bruce Berline has asked the federal court to impose no more than 33 months of prison on a 63-year-old man who pleaded guilty to selling methamphetamine or "ice" near the Northern Marianas College.

Berline also requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI not to impose any fine in view of Le Xiang Chen's financial circumstances.

Berline said Chen has agreed to be deported.

"Given the charge that Mr. Chen pled to along with his advanced age, Mr. Chen will never be able to return to the United States after he is deported," he said.

Berline pointed out that Chen participated in the Tiananmen Square protests, so his return to China may lead to severe consequences.

"There can be no greater punishment than for Mr. Chen to be removed from what has been his home for the last 16 years and be forced to return to a country which he no longer has any connection," Berline said.

Chen has been in the CNMI since 1998.

Berline said this is Chen's first criminal conviction.

Berline said upon being indicted in this case, Chen admitted his wrongdoing and offered to cooperate with the U.S. government. He said Chen is not a violent person, possessed no weapon during the U.S. government's investigation, nor is there any evidence that Chen is a user of "ice" or any other illicit drug.

Chen's father died when he was 3 years old. He lost his mother when he was 16 years old.

Due to the political environment in China, Chen dropped out of school after what is the equivalent to the ninth grade here.

Chen arrived on Saipan in the heyday of the garment industry. He came to Saipan in 1998 to work at the United International Corp., where he worked for four years. From 2002 to 2004, Chen attempted to run a small Internet café business but it closed down due to intense competition.

Thereafter, Berline said, Chen worked odd jobs, scraping by, day by day, on subsistence wages.

Eventually, the lawyer said, as is the case with many uneducated people living year after year in abject poverty, Chen resorted to illicit activity to sustain himself.

Upon being indicted, Chen did not require the U.S. government to prove its case at trial. Instead, he entered into a plea deal without resistance.

In addition to admitting to distribution of "ice," Chen agreed to his removal from the U.S. and to the forfeiture of the $750 that he received from the confidential informant.

He said Chen, by chance, rented a small room located within 1,000 yards of NMC. However, Berline said, despite living and selling "ice" near NMC, there was no other connection between Chen and NMC. He said there was no evidence that Chen was selling "ice" to or soliciting the students of the college.

Chen was one of seven persons arrested in February by joint local and federal law enforcements for alleged distribution of "ice."

Last May, Chen pleaded guilty to distribution of methamphetamine near a school. The offense carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison and a $2 million fine.

Chen's sentencing will be on Dec. 4 at 9am.

According to the plea agreement, on Nov. 8, 2012, Chen sold 2.8 grams of 98.2 percent pure methamphetamine hydrochloride to a confidential source for the Drug Enforcement Administration in exchange for $750.

The sale took place in Chen's residence in Finasisu, which is within 1,000 feet of NMC.

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Zoning to hold public hearing on crematorium application

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Zoning Office will be holding a public hearing this Thursday on a conditional use permit application for a funeral home with crematory services that will be situated in Beach Road near Aquarius Beach Hotel.

The operator of the proposed crematorium earlier chose to withdraw its application due to the district of Chalan Kanoa being prohibited from having any funeral homes under Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 and several issues regarding the environment and parking.

However, in August this year, House Local Bill 18-55 amended the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 to allow funeral homes or crematoria in Chalan Kanoa. That bill is now Saipan Local Law 18-20.

The operator of the proposed crematorium is reportedly Borja Funeral Homes.

If the plan pushes through, this will be the first ever crematorium in the CNMI. Residents who have sough cremation for their loved ones who've passed away would usually ship the remains to Guam.

One resident said he is not too sure of having crematory services on island due to the traditional custom of burying the dead.

"I don't think local residents are ready to see the cremation of their loved ones. We don't necessarily need cremation services near our residences as well," he said.

Another resident said the concept is not new to her. "I think it is better, because if you look at the cemetery near Mt. Carmel Cathedral, it seems too crowded, it is crowded enough. Where will they bury dead people if it becomes more crowded? This is better," she said.

CUC developing new policy for deceased account holders

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is developing a name-change policy for new or existing customers using previous accounts of past users, according to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher.

He said this is in line with the board's push for a smoother and easier operation so that those using previous accounts of deceased users wouldn't cause any problems for CUC.

Fletcher said he doesn't know how many consumers are currently using past accounts and that it could be a problem for CUC in the future for incoming users.

The CUC board recommended that management create a name-change policy so that there wouldn't be problems when they collect on past accounts.

CUC board chair Dave Sablan Jr. said that CUC should prioritize the transition for new customers, so that they could clean CUC's records of deceased individuals whose accounts are still listed as active.

"That is the collection aspect when unpaid bills from the deceased and those using past accounts don't want to pay and might say that they aren't responsible for that account because it is not theirs," Fletcher said.

He said it is important for everyone who is receiving any service from CUC that the name they place on the account is accurate.

"I still don't understand why sometimes someone doesn't change the account name. Maybe they are trying to avoid the CUC deposit for creating a new account or they may have a different reason. But we are creating the policy so that those using past accounts get collected as well and be brought current and then get the name change into play," he said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

CEC

From Page 1

Flaherty said Dela Cruz lacks evidence to support his claims of irregularity or misconduct and the court should dismiss CEC from his complaint since the commission is not a proper defendant in an election contest under CNMI law.

The chief prosecutor said Dela Cruz's claim based upon the possibility of seven ineligible voters being allowed to vote should be dismissed for want of prosecution due to its untimely nature.

He cited that Public Law 17-11 clearly spells out a process for challenging a voter's eligibility, a process that must be initiated prior to or on election day.

Flaherty said Dela Cruz, like other members of the CNMI public, had access to the information to properly challenge these seven voters' eligibility prior to election day.

"Their names would have been on publicly-available eligible voter lists," he said.

If they requested an absentee ballot, their names would also have been on that list.

Flaherty said Dela Cruz chose not to avail himself of this information in time to raise a proper challenge pursuant to the statute.

No challenges to voters on the Tinian rolls were raised at all, Flaherty said.

"Should there be any truth to contestant's claims with regard to the eligibility of voters, the time for those complaint has come and gone and this court should dismiss those claims for want of prosecution," he said.

Moreover, Flaherty said, even if complaints based on voter eligibility could be heard at this time, Dela Cruz's claims should be dismissed because he demonstrates no actual prejudice.

"Yes, the vote difference between contestant and defendant San Nicolas is seven votes, the same number as the number of votes challenged. But no evidence is given that those seven voters (whomever they are) actually voted for one candidate or another, thus actually prejudicing contestant," he said

Flaherty said Dela Cruz's claim is based on the assumption that these seven votes cast votes for San Nicolas.

CEC denied Dela Cruz's assertion that it failed to count all valid votes in the race for the mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan. It denied Dela Cruz's assertion that it allowed voters to cast more than one vote each in the race for the mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan.

CEC also denied that it allowed felons serving sentences to cast votes in the race.

Flaherty again asserted that any challenges to a voter's eligibility must be taken up before election day or on election day, and thus Dela Cruz's assertions, even if true or even if it resulted in actual prejudice to him, is an untimely challenge to the eligibility of these "seven voters."

CEC denied that it committed any error in its lawful manipulation of ballots, and denied that there was any improper "adulterating" of ballots.

CEC denied that there was any mishandling of the ballots or absentee voters and denied that it allowed more than one vote per voter in the race.

On Wednesday, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja ordered that the recount of the ballots for Tinian mayor will proceed today, Monday, at Tinian Superior Court. Naraja said the evidentiary hearing and the hearing on motions to dismiss Dela Cruz's election contest will be on Wednesday.

Naraja said if the tabulating machines will not be available that day, the alternative is manual recounting.

San Nicolas also filed a separate motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

Mark Hanson, counsel for Dela Cruz, said Wednesday that the evidentiary hearing will be about Dela Cruz's claims on irregularities—felony voters, double voting, and lack of ballot control.

Hanson said San Nicolas filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit on different grounds as CEC's, and that they don't believe it has merits.

CEC has already officially declared San Nicolas of the Republican Party as the winner of the Nov. 4 mayor election by seven votes over Dela Cruz (Independent), 703 to 696.

In his lawsuit, Dela Cruz alleged several irregularities during the election, including a discrepancy between the votes cast for Tinian mayor tabulated on Tinian and the tabulation on Saipan of the votes physically cost on Tinian for Tinian mayor.

VOTERS

From Page 1

absentee ballots to return. A lot of us registered voters living abroad expected our absentee ballots to be on time," he said in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

Litulumar said he knows of 12 other absentee voters who didn't get their ballots on time. "But I believe there are more than that."

Joseph "Joe" Salas and his wife, Cathy, also weren't able to receive their absentee ballots on time.

"I didn't get my absentee ballot at all. It's so disappointing," said Joe, who has become a sort of local celebrity in Boise, Idaho after surviving six days lost in the wilderness recently.

Cathy was more articulate in her disappointment. "I only got mine a day after deadline while Joe got it the day after. We voted during the general election but absentee ballots for the runoff didn't come on time. I'm disappointed because that is our civic right but we weren't afforded that opportunity," she said.

David Atalig was fortunate enough to get his on time but he is still fuming that he had to go through all the trouble just to exercise his right to vote.

"I got it at around 5:30pm [on Nov. 21] when the airman came and had to run to the post office to get it mailed. It was closed at 5pm and I had to drive to the back of the post office and asked them if they could please just postmark the envelope. Stressful! I heard a lot of people did not get theirs too," he also wrote on social media to *Saipan Tribune*.

CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero was apologetic to absentee voters who didn't get their packets on time and asked for their understanding because the U.S. Postal Service is working double time this time of year.

"I don't know what happened to the postal system and I'm not even going to blame the U.S. Postal Service. It's the holiday season and everyone knows that during the holiday season, it's very hectic."

While there have been appeals that CEC extend the 14-day wait for the return of absentee ballots, Guerrero said he will leave it up to the Legislature to amend the law.

"Fixing the law, it's up to the Legislature and not up to us. The commission is just following what's in the law. I know there have been talks that they wish Robert can extend the 14-day beyond that and this and that. But everything is set by law and the commission is just following the law. It's not Robert's law and it's not the commission's law. It's what the Legislature passed and we're just following the law."

Guerrero earlier said that CEC sent out the over 2,000 absentee ballots on Nov. 10 and that USPS airmailed them the next day on Nov. 11.

The Nov. 21 runoff resulted in the NMI Republican Party tandem of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan) amassing a 1,599-vote lead against the independent pair of former speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and former Senate floor leader Ray N. Yumul.

GOP campaign manager Jason Osborne said the Hofschneider-Yumul need to get 87 percent of the absentee ballots to overtake Inos-Torres, which is mathematically impossible even if all 2,000-plus absentee ballots were received and returned.

CLEANING

From Page 1

Philippines.

Carino's lucky number was ticket number 8501.

Joyce Sy took home $3,000 for the second top prize. A "no-name" ticket number 0932 was called for the $2,000 prize; a woman named Angie took home $1,000, and Cathy Camoral won $500.

Carino's cry of surprise broke up the crowd gathered at the drawing site where emcee and Rotary vice president Curtis Dancoe announced the night's winners. She appeared shaken but joyful while claiming her prize, and held on to the emcee podium as the crowd cheered.

"So is it the $10,000 in cash or the 2015 Hyundai Accent GLS?" Dancoe asked. Carino would take the cash. She said she bought her $40 worth of tickets from her landlady and a friend at Dolphin's Wholesale.

Tickets were sold out at the door around 8:30pm that night. Rotary president Richard Cody said at least 10,000 tickets were sold. Proceeds would help fund many of their community projects.

"Our number one project is a construction of a family park in Kagman. A second project we would like to do is furnish and equip a dental clinic on Rota," Cody said.

Las Vegas Night is the one major fundraising event of the club's entire year, according to Cody. The club also sends about $1,000 a year to a children's hospital in Russia, he said.

A full account of how many tickets were sold and money raised from the night's games was not available that night. Last year, they raised about $40,000, Cody said. He expects to top that number this year.

Cody estimated the cost of the Kagman Park to reach some $100,000. They have set aside $5,000 a year for the project in previous years, he said. About $20,000 should have been raised by that night, he said.

He hopes construction is started before the end of this Rotary year in June next year.

"The first part of the project that we want to do is the basketball court. They have a half-court; we want to make it a full-court. The kids use the basketball court everyday."

Cody added that he is very grateful for the volunteers and Rotary members who threw in their support to make the event happen. He said the night's turnout was "better than we thought it would be."

Thousands gathered that night to play blackjack, roulette, Bingo, and Texas Hold' Em. A significant number chose not to play but waited in the wings for the night's raffle drawings.

KILILI

From Page 2

Best Sunshine's project is not the only mega development in the horizon for the Commonwealth, as Alter City Group is also eyeing a $360-million development on Tinian and Honest Profit International Ltd. is plunking down another $130 million investment for a hotel in San Antonio.

"That's exactly why I can't figure out why the very same people opposed to comprehensive immigration reform supported the casino bill. The only reason I can think about is they haven't read the immigration bill. That is not just about long-term nonresidents; it's also about H workers and other workers needed. Whether it's H1B or H2 workers. I don't know how we're going to go about it. The governor and I need to sit down and figure out how to do this," said Sablan.

He also said that if Best Sunshine and Alter City Group are thinking of bringing in people from China, then they have another think coming.

"China has no treaty with the U.S. on H workers. You need a special waver. It's not easy. There's a problem [but there] are ways around this but it requires legislation. I'm now baffled, maybe someone in the Legislature has an idea as to how they're going to do this because they're saying 'yes' on one hand and 'no' on the other and these things need to come together."

Sablan said he would be working with Gov. Eloy S. Inos to figure out a plan to supply the labor needs of the CNMI in the face of these mega developments.

"It's going to be a very difficult issue in Washington because, again, it's an immigration issue and we're no longer outside the federalized immigration system and we're now in the system. It's going to be complicated, whether it's the workers or the visa waiver program."

After a short Thanksgiving break, Sablan is set to leave for Washington, D.C. today. He said Congress would have its last day of session on Dec. 12. He would be back in the CNMI for a two-week Christmas break.

Saban will take his oath as a member of the 114th U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 6 in the nation's capital.

Falig arrested again, this time for domestic violence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Corrections officer Mariano Q. Falig Jr. was arrested again, this time for allegedly slashing the tire and scratching with a knife the vehicle of his pregnant girlfriend and threatening to kill her outside a bar in Garapan on Wednesday night.

Falig, 36, was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday for a bail hearing on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, disturbing the peace, and domestic violence. A $10,000 cash bail was set and preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 4 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg was appointed as counsel for Falig.

Police detective Flora Danica B. Aguon stated in her report that, according to the alleged victim, she and some co-workers had gone to the Abyss Bar and Restaurant on Wednesday. At 7pm, the alleged victim saw Falig looking at her through the window of the bar. She went outside and met Falig by Café at the Park, where she had parked her Toyota Siena.

Falig, who was allegedly holding a knife, accused her of having an affair and then allegedly slashed the front right tire of her vehicle. When Falig left the area, the alleged victim went back inside Abyss but later saw Falig through the window of Abyss at 9pm, signaling for her to come out.

She came out and saw Falig inside his vehicle that was parked by her car. Falig told her that their relationship is over and he then allegedly stuck out the knife he earlier used to threaten her and reversed his vehicle, scratching her car. Falig put his vehicle on drive and scratched her vehicle again. He allegedly did this—reversing and driving—to scratch her car three times.

Falig also allegedly threatened to kick her stomach and cut her neck. The alleged victim is five months pregnant with Falig's child.

When she told him she was going to call the police, he got into his vehicle and reversed, scratching her car again with the knife and left the area.

The girlfriend said Falig has been abusing her many times in the past, but she never reported those incidents to the police.

She said she is afraid for her life and children if Falig is released from jail because he had allegedly threatened to kill her many times.

Last March, a federal court jury acquitted Falig of charges that he distributed methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

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USDA makes $26.7M investment in Guam's university and college

TIYAN, Guam—Chris J. Kanazawa, State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced Friday that USDA Rural Development has made a major investment with the recent funding awards in favor of both the University of Guam and the Guam Community College.

The University of Guam Endowment Foundation was awarded with a $21.7 million Community Facility Direct loan for the renovation and expansion of the Student Services Center and for the construction of a new Engineering Annex building on the University of Guam campus. Likewise, the Guam Community College Foundation was awarded with a $5 million CF Direct loan that will be utilized to harden, renovate, and expand Building 100 and to extend the Gregorio G. Perez Crime Lab building located on the Guam Community College campus.

"USDA is firmly committed to working side by side with the residents and community leaders of the island of Guam to improve the overall quality of life and economic opportunities for the region," Kanazawa said. "Today's announcement will result in greater access to quality education and local job opportunities important to residents in the region."

Funding for these projects was made possible through the CF Program. CF can make and guarantee loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties and special-purpose districts, as well as to non-profit corporations and tribal governments. Funding is available for fire and police stations, emergency vehicles, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes, schools, community centers, public buildings, childcare centers as well as other community-based initiatives.

"These two projects will further enhance the GCC Criminal Justice program by providing a more conducive learning environment to give our graduates the necessary skills to fill the demand for law enforcement and forensic science careers [in] Guam and in the region," said Dr. Mary Okada, president of the GCC, who sought leveraged financing with USDA for the projects.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way—strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities.

"This USDA loan allows the university to grow and meet the needs of our island communities," said Dr. Robert Underwood, president of the University of Guam. "A vibrant campus life, the first generation of island engineers and meeting the needs of a 21st century student body are made possible by this loan. Biba USDA! Biba UOG!"

"The ability to access a good quality education is critical for sustainability in any rural area," said Joe Diego, Area Director. "We see these long-term investments not only as a means to expand access to a good, quality education but also as an investment in building a strong community while contributing to a good quality of life for citizens living in Guam and the Western Pacific region."

According to Diego, USDA has supported higher education on Guam since the '80s, having funded the construction of the University of Guam Fieldhouse. More recently, USDA awarded loan funds in favor of GCC for the construction of the Learning Resource Center and the Foundation Building at GCC. ***(USDA)***

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Fiesta SE	EM225301	Gray	$2,500.00
~~Escape S~~	~~EUD1~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$3,000.00~~
Escape S	EUD12669	Blue	$3,000.00
Escape SE	EUB67717	Red	$3,500.00
~~Explorer EcoBoost~~	~~EGB2~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$4,000.00~~
Explorer XLT 4WD	EGB05148	Darkside	$4,000.00
F150 STX 4WD	EKE73316	Silver	$5,000.00

NISSAN	STOCK #	Color	Discount
Altima SV	EC177739	Mocha	$3,000.00
Altima SV	EC157024	White	$3,000.00
Rogue S	EC754914	Silver	$3,000.00
NV200 SV	EK696537	White	$3,000.00
~~Frontier SV~~	~~EN71~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
Frontier PRO4X	EN747027	Red	$4,000.00
Xterra PRO4X	EN807863	Red	$4,000.00
Maxima SV Sport	EC457171	Mocha	$4,000.00
~~Pathfinder Platinum~~	~~EC65~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$5,000.00~~

HONDA	STOCK #	Color	Discount
~~Civic LX~~	~~EE06553~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$2,500.00~~
~~Civic LX~~	~~EE00224~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$2,500.00~~
Civic LX	EE046655	Maroon	$2,500.00
Civic LX	EE065865	Silver	$2,500.00
~~Accord LX~~	~~EA26617~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~Accord EX~~	~~EA18773~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~CR-V LX~~	~~EL02628~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$3,000.00~~
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Worldwide candle lighting for all who have died

As part of The Compassionate Friends' 18th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Service, a remembrance program to honor all our loved ones will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 6:30pm at the Garapan Central Park (in front of Gold's Gym).

Tens of thousands of bereaved family members and friends around the globe will join together to light remembrance candles to honor the memories of those who have died, but will never be forgotten.

Candles will be lit at 7pm local time, as we commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon. A virtual 24-hour wave of light moves from time zone to time zone around the world. As candles go out in time zones before us, they will be lit in Saipan and Guam.

Each family group or attendee will have the opportunity to light and hold their own candle in remembrance. There will be a slideshow presentation, music, and readings of all loved one's names. If you would like your child's or sibling's photo included in the slide show, e-mail two or three photos to nelsonkrum@msn.com *before* Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014 (or call one of the numbers below if you need help scanning a photo).

Attendees are also welcome to bring a framed photo or small memento of their loved one for a display. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony. Please join us and bring your loved one's favorite dessert/finger food to be shared, along with memories, after the program.

Those unable to attend may participate by simply lighting a candle at home alone, or with friends and family and/or submit a memorial post about a loved one in the Remembrance Book, which will be available during the event, at TCF's national website at http://www.compassionatefriends.org/home.aspx.

The Compassionate friends of Saipan is a self-help organization offering friendship, understanding, support and hope to family members who have experienced the death of a son, daughter, brother, sister, or grandchild, and helps others better assist grieving families.

The group's monthly grief support meeting, for parents, grandparents and siblings, will be held this Thursday, Dec. 4, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai, from 6pm to 7:30pm.

Contact tcfsaipan@gmail.com or Jill Derickson (989-9821/ jilld@pticom.com) or Donna Krum (783-0755/ donnakrum@gmail.com) for more information. ***(TCF)***

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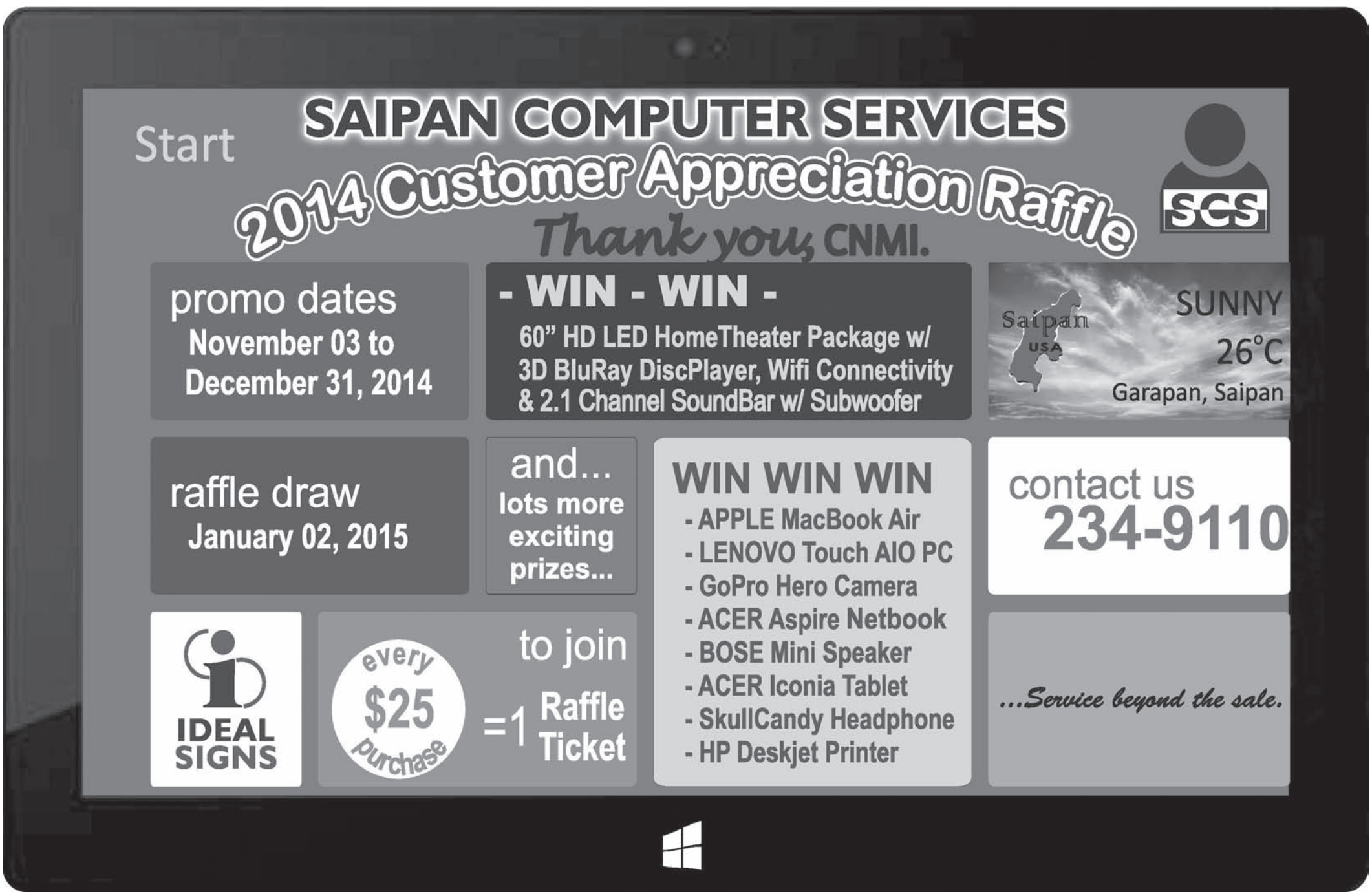

SHEFA to revisit 'priority field of study' program

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board plans to revisit its incentive grant for scholars under its "priority field of study" program.

As it is right now, some board members believe that SHEFA regulations governing the priority field of study is too broad, with too many fields of study.

This grant is an incentive program that seeks to encourage Saipan students to pursue college degrees that are highly needed on the island such as in education or the medical field.

SHEFA board member Juan Tenorio said they have a good base already for the priority fields, but they still need to revisit and further narrow the fields into specific careers that are necessary here in the CNMI.

"That is what we have been trying to do and it is set now and we do have a priority. We have students particularly in education and health and a lot of students take that and right now we need to prioritize that and look from there," Tenorio said.

Saipan Tribune learned that in 2012 to 2013, about 29 percent of SHEFA students major in education and 14 percent are under medical and allied fields.

Other priority fields of study include social sciences and fine arts, with 19 percent of students; 11 percent are in business marketing, management, and administration; 8 percent are taking up computer science; 7 percent, criminal justice; 5 percent, environmental studies; 4 percent, accounting; and 3 percent, engineering and related fields.

SHEFA board chair Josephine T. Sablan said they have to look further into education and see what type of degrees will fit the priority fields of study.

SHEFA board chair Ursula Aldan said that they have a report from the Workforce Investment Agency on what positions WIA applicants mostly apply for.

Other courses on the list of priority field of study are accounting; nursing; teaching with specialization in special education, early childhood education, library science, counseling, bilingual education; business management and administration; hospitality and information technology with emphasis on anthropology, sociology for teaching; biology (science) for teaching; criminal justice leading to forensic science; lab technology; psychology other than leading to counseling; human resources development/personnel management; social worker.

It adds: mathematics for teaching; engineering/architect; medical and allied fields including psychiatry; environmental studies/conservation (e.g., natural resources, volcanology, marine biology, fish and wildlife, meteorology and archeology); and computer graphics, including technical or specialized trades such as journalism, management information, computer programming and other fields of study sanctioned by the board.

"We will look into this after the committee on priority fields come up with a solution or projection on the basis of the priority fields," Sablan said.

Matson to raise rates on NMI, Micronesia services

HONOLULU—Matson Inc., a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific, announced last week that Matson Navigation Company Inc. will raise its rates for the company's Guam/Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and Micronesia services by $225 for both westbound and eastbound containers, effective Jan. 25, 2015.

The increase will be filed with the Surface Transportation Board and the Federal Maritime Commission.

The rate increase also applies to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. There will be no adjustment made to the company's terminal handling charge.

» Rates to go up by $225, effective Jan. 25, 2015.

"This is Matson's second rate increase for Guam/CNMI and Micronesia in four years," said Dave Hoppes, senior vice president, ocean services. "During that time, our operating costs have continued to rise, necessitating this adjustment. The increase will also support ongoing investments in our service to the region. Matson continues to diligently look for ways to operate the most efficient, cost effective service possible, without undercutting our standards of quality. In the past decade, Matson has invested nearly $1 billion in four new containerships, fleet enhancements, new container equipment, information technology and upgrades to its terminal facilities. Last year, the company announced that it is investing $418 million in two new 3,600 TEU containerships that will be deployed in our Hawaii service and will transport Guam cargo from the U.S. West Coast to Honolulu. Matson remains committed to continuing to provide Guam and Micronesia with a modern, reliable ocean transportation infrastructure." ***(Matson)***

Guam attorney general looks into alleged irregularities in Nov. polls

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam's attorney general is investigating allegations of pre-marked ballots in the general election.

The Office of the Attorney General confirmed Wednesday that it received documents from the Guam Election Commission related to the allegations.

A precinct officer in Dededo signed an affidavit saying she saw pre-marked ballots in a cooler belonging to the campaign for Eddie Calvo and Ray Tenorio, who won re-election as governor and lieutenant governor. She thought the cooler contained drinks, but it was full of papers, the affidavit said. But she later signed another statement saying she only saw a single ballot that was a possible sample, *Pacific Daily News* reported.

She said she didn't prepare or read the first affidavit before signing it. She said it was prepared by someone else based on her written statement and interview.

"The papers I noticed on top were actually ballots and were already pre-marked already for 'Calvo/Tenorio' for governor and lieutenant governor," and also for some senators, the affidavit said.

The affidavit also said she was afraid to come forward because she feared losing her government job.

She later wrote to the election commission saying she did see a ballot but was unsure if it the ballot was an actual election ballot or a sample one. "It was only one ballot that I saw," she wrote.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-003

Water & Wastewater Laboratory Services

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from DECQ certified firms to provide laboratory services for the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP package may be obtained upon completion of registration and receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **November 26, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-RFP-15-003*, Water & Wastewater Laboratory Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 12, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **November 28, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Heidi Yelin, CUC Laboratory Manager, via email heidi.yelin@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-002

POWER SUPPLY RESOURCES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities to supply reliable, affordable energy from commercially proven electric generation resources for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one, or more, proponent(s) to negotiate long-term power supply contracts that best fit CUC's power supply requirements. CUC's requirements for new power supply resources will be determined as part of its Integrated Resource Plan, which is currently underway. More information regarding the Integrated Resource Plan can be found at the CUC's website at http://www.cucgov.org/integrated-resource-plan/.

The RFP documents may be downloaded from the CUC website at http://www.cucgov.org/power-supply-rfp/. It is each proponent's responsibility to ensure they have received all RFP documents posted to this website. An updated checklist will be provided in early January, titled "RFP Document Receipt Checklist and Affirmation" prior to the submittal deadline. In order to reduce the cost to CUC of this procurement and in the interest of sustainable business practices, CUC will not be providing printed RFP materials; all RFP materials will be posted and distributed electronically.

Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, by filling out and submitting a Proponent Registration Form by 10:00 am December 15, 2014 in order to be considered. The Proponent Registration Form is posted to the website at http://www.cucgov.org/power-supply-rfp/ and can be delivered in printed format or electronically via email to the CUC Procurement Contact for Power Supply RFP:

Manny B. Sablan, Jr.
Purchasing Officer
Address: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Third Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg.
P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP, 96950
Office Phone: (670) 236-4303
Email: manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

The deadline for proposal submittals is currently scheduled for January 20, 2015, although this date may be subject to change. Changes to the proposal schedule will be posted as addenda to the Request for Proposal documents.

One printed, hardcopy original and five copies of all proposal material and supporting documents (including the Technical Proposal requirements, the Cost Proposal requirements, and all supplementary data requested as part of Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C) must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 15-002, Power Supply Resources" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 20, 2015. One electronic copy of the Technical Proposal and related documents, and one electronic copy of the Cost Proposal and related documents, in Adobe pdf format on a DVD, also must be delivered with the other printed, hardcopy proposal materials.

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. Questions or requests for clarification will be considered only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than December 17, 2104 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email addressed to manny.sablan@cucgov.org. CUC will host a Pre-Proposal Conference and Webinar on December 4, 2014 to discuss the Request for Proposals and answer questions. Information regarding the Pre-Proposal Conference and Webinar will be provided to registered proponents.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

NOTICE OF INACTIVE BANK ACCOUNTS

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2014, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with BANK OF GUAM® are inactive, and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective BANK OF GUAM® Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Commonwealth Treasurer during the month of January 2015, pursuant to 4 CMC §6106(i) and 4 CMC §6513. Please take note that after January 2015, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Commonwealth Treasurer.

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Agatha Saipan Ltd.
PO Box 5236 CHRB-145 • Saipan, MP 96950

Carmen P. Agulto
PO Box 502557 • Saipan, MP 96950

Antes Akiuo
PO Box 10000 PMB 119 • Saipan MP 96950-8900

Jorge R. Alvarado
PO Box 5892 • Saipan, MP 96950

Jaime T. Alvaro
PO Box 500554 • Saipan, MP 96950-0554

Donicia A. Amirez or Serafin M. Amirez
PO Box 502964 CK • Saipan, MP 96950

RPacifico S.N. Aquiningoc
PO Box 13 • Tinian, MP 96952-0013

Jesus Arriola
PO Box 500495 • Fina Sisu • Saipan, MP 96950

Salvador B. Astibe
San Luis Nabua, Camarines Sur • Philippines 04434

Renato G. Azucenas
PO Box 502576 • Saipan, MP 96950-2576

Adorlito P. Banares
PMB 564 • PO Box 10000 • Saipan, MP 96950

Jamie Sablan Barcinas
PO Box 503523 • Fina Sisu • Saipan, MP 96950

Cherry M. Baredo
PO Box 502404 • Saipan, MP 96950-2404

Debesh Basu
PO Box 500409 • Saipan, MP 96950-0409

Leon T. Borja
PO Box 503446 • Saipan, MP 96950-3446

H.W. Bunett
General Delivery • Saipan, MP 96950

Priscilla C. Cabrera
8758 Country Lane • Manassas, VA 20110

Faustino F. Camacho
PO Box 5311 • Saipan, MP 96950-5311

Wenlu Chen
PO Box 502809 • Saipan, MP 96950-2809

Guoxiang Cheng
PO Box 504022 • Saipan, MP 96950-4022

Amalia M. Clemer
PO Box 1029 c/o Dai Ichi Hotel • Saipan, MP 96950

Commercial Trading of Saipan, Inc.
PO Box 500724 • Saipan, MP 96950-0724

Committee for Non-Resident Dependants
PO Box 2017 • Saipan, MP 96950

Irenea Y. Dacuno
PO Box 10001 PMB 124 • Saipan MP 96950-8901

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Yigo, GU 96929

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"IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR IS THAT TOM FELLOW A BIT TOO EXUBERANT ABOUT WORKING ON THANKSGIVING?"

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

GOP ponders its next move in wake of Obama's immigration action

When President Barack Obama announced his decision to allow roughly 4 million undocumented immigrants to stay in the U.S. without fear of deportation, Democrats and Republicans in Washington disagreed furiously about the move. No surprise there.

Still, I confess to being a little amazed at how, in the days since, not only politicians but eminent legal scholars have lined up to cheer their own sides' positions.

To Democratic law professors, Obama's action is a routine exercise of prosecutorial discretion. "The president is not acting unilaterally, but pursuant to his statutory authority," wrote Duke University's Walter Dellinger, a former Clinton administration official, in Slate. "Even though the action is breathtaking in scope, there is nothing legally remarkable about (it)."

But to conservative jurists, the president just pulled off a dangerous, unconstitutional power grab. "Obama is flouting his fundamental duty, set out in Article II of the Constitution, to take care that the laws be faithfully executed," wrote University of California, Berkeley's John C. Yoo in National Review. The constitutional remedy, he wrote, would be "impeachment"—but that, alas, would be "self-destructive" for the GOP.

Yes, that's the same John Yoo who wrote the Justice Department's secret legal opinions granting then-President George W. Bush unilateral authority to torture detainees and order warrantless wiretapping.

But at least Yoo didn't go as far as Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who likened Obama to the power-hungry Roman conspirator Catiline. In 63 BC, Catiline attempted a coup to overthrow the Roman Republic; he was killed in battle by his republican—with a small "r"—foes.

To be fair, a few legal scholars bolted from their partisan roots. Harvard's Jack Goldsmith, another former Bush administration official, noted acerbically that six years in the White House had turned Democrats "from executive power critics to executive power apologists"—and worked the same transformation on Republicans in reverse.

Still, he wrote on the Lawfare blog, "The administration has made a plausible case for legality." The more important issue, he added, is whether Obama's aggressive action stretched the norms of American politics in a way that Democrats will regret—especially if it gives the next Republican president a license to defer enforcement of regulations he doesn't like.

In most cases, though, the lawyers stuck with their teams, which shouldn't come as a surprise given the depth of the current divide between the parties on just about every topic.

Is the economy getting better? Most Democrats say it is; most Republicans, insist that it isn't.

See GOP on Page 11

The complicated rules of citizenship

By PETER SCHUCK
Los Angeles Times

Peter Schuck is a professor of law at Yale University and co-author, with Rogers Smith, of Citizenship Without Consent: Illegal Aliens in the American Polity. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

To Americans, the rules of citizenship can seem simple: You're a member of this nation either by birth or naturalization. But centuries of debate over how citizenship can be acquired and lost show that the concept is not simple at all. This is especially true of birthright citizenship, the rule that confers membership on children born here regardless of whether their parents are documented.

Until the Civil War—and the Dred Scott decision that helped precipitate it by denying citizenship even to former slaves in free territory—the United States managed to finesse a definition of national citizenship. The founders and their descendants avoided the hard political, moral and legal questions about membership posed by Indians, slaves and black freemen. The Constitution used the term "citizen" but did not define it. State citizenship law sufficed.

The idea of birthright citizenship emerged from English common law. In 1608, 12 years before the Mayflower landed, the eminent British jurist Edward Coke set forth the first comprehensive theory of English subjectship. Coke ruled that a person born under the English king's protection was an English subject and owed him full allegiance as a matter of "natural," or divinely ordained, law. Neither Parliament nor the person had any choice in the matter.

This legal arrangement—ascribing one's membership in a group at birth and by location—known as *jus soli*, or the law of territory, has the virtue of certainty; knowing where someone was born (with a few narrow exceptions like diplomats' and enemy soldiers' children), fixes the person's membership perpetually. It is a birthright—and a birth duty.

Even before our Declaration of Independence, philosophers of democracy rejected this rule. Democracies consisted of citizens, not subjects, so their membership should be grounded in rules derived from their elected officials and their own choices about their loyalties.

Notably, John Locke and the "public law" theorists advanced liberal, consensualist ideas about national membership: Parents could transmit their own consensually derived membership to their children no matter where the child was born—known as *jus sanguinis*, or the law of blood. In certain situations, states could de-nationalize disloyal citizens, and citizens could renounce their ascribed membership. These theories gained ground in the U.S. with the War of 1812 when the British navy forced American sailors to serve on its warships, insisting that the sailors, having once been British subjects (or their descendants), remained British forever, like it or not.

The United States had to directly face the citizenship question after Emancipation. The 14th Amendment's citizenship clause combined both ascriptive and consensual ideas. It ascribes citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, but only if Congress makes them "subject to the jurisdiction thereof," a consensual idea. An 1868 statute enacted a day after the amendment's ratification (and still in force) reinforced this consensualism by letting Americans renounce their citizenship if they comply with certain formalities.

So what does "subject to the jurisdiction" mean? The Supreme Court long ago decided this phrase confers birthright citizenship only on those who are "not merely subject in some respect or degree to the jurisdiction of the United States, but completely subject to their political jurisdiction, and owing them direct and immediate allegiance" at birth. In that case, the court denied citizenship to Indians born on reservations but living off them, because they were subject to tribal jurisdiction even though Congress held power over their tribes. (Indians became citizens only in 1924, by statute.) Later, the court granted birthright citizenship to the U.S.-born child of Chinese parents because her parents were here legally.

In another bow to consensualism, Congress legislated *jus sanguinis* citizenship, traditional in Europe, for most children born abroad of one or both citizen parents who have lived in the U.S. for certain periods. (Not having been "born in the United States," these children would otherwise have been excluded.)

What about the U.S.-born children of the 11.2 million undocumented immigrants here in the U.S.? The 14th Amendment doesn't directly address their status (there was no illegal immigration in 1868). Nor has the court ever squarely held that such children are birthright citizens, although this is common practice that the court acknowledged in a footnote in 1982. (France and Germany have moved their rules in this direction.)

Many Americans believe that granting these children citizenship defies consensualism because the parents are here in violation of laws passed by our representatives. Nonetheless, legislation to change the situation never gets very far, probably because doing so would raise complications in a nation of immigrants with so many mixed-status families.

Which means the uneasy compromise between citizenship ascribed at birth and consensual citizenship conferred under democratically chosen rules continues today, 400 years after Coke based birthright citizenship on monarchical power. Most Americans, however, seem untroubled by the conflicting principles, tolerating an awkward status quo. As history shows us, finessing hard choices is as American as Thanksgiving dinner.

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Cholesterol and you

By JOHN L. DOYLE, MD
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cholesterol in your body comes from several sources.

One source is from the foods we eat. It can be very confusing to try and figure out what is good for you and what is not. Some of us joke that a good rule of thumb is that if it tastes good it is probably bad for you. Unfortunately, that is largely true of the foods we eat today. Processing and added chemicals make many foods taste better and added fats make them filling and rich tasting. So how can some of these foods be cholesterol-free and yet high in fat?

The key is to understand the definitions and sources of cholesterol.

Cholesterol is a constituent of *animal* fats. Vegetables do not contain cholesterol and neither does vegetable oil. Yet no one in their right mind would say that eating a pound of french fries, which contain no cholesterol, would be healthier than a couple of eggs and a few slices of bacon. However, neither are good for you in excess. Hence the word *moderation* comes into play.

By reading labels you can discern what the fat content of foods are, what the cholesterol content is as well as sodium and other ingredients of the products are (saturated, unsaturated and trans fats). By limiting the amount of *fat* that you ingest you can limit the amount of cholesterol, reduce the bad fats in your diet, and improve your overall health. The cleaner the fuel you give to your body, the cleaner your "engine" will run.

The other source of cholesterol in your body is from your body itself. Your body manufactures cholesterol. The amount of cholesterol your body manufactures is a product of genetics. You can blame your ancestors for the majority of the cholesterol in your body.

High cholesterol causes heart disease and strokes, among other problems. A discussion with your doctor about your family history and risk factors is the best place to start on finding out your level of risk and need for intervention.

A fasting blood test (taken on an empty stomach) will allow your doctor to measure and evaluate your cholesterol levels.

Diet is part of the treatment but will only lower your levels by 10 to 15 percent. Many people will require medication.

We often talk about "good" and "bad" cholesterol. What do we mean by this? What does it mean to you?

Bad cholesterol is called LDL. That stands for low density lipoprotein. "Good" cholesterol is called HDL or high density lipoprotein.

The bad type of cholesterol is the one that tends to stick to the insides of your arteries and clog them up. The good kind of cholesterol actually protects your arteries from this process.

If you have ever had the opportunity to look inside one of the water pipes in your house you can see the buildup of calcium and lime and other deposits over time. This same process is going on inside your arteries. If you have more calcium in your water you will have more buildup in your pipes. If you have more bad cholesterol in your blood you will have more buildup in your arteries.

What we have discovered is that by lowering the amount of total cholesterol and bad cholesterol in the blood we can significantly lower the amount of deposits on the inside of the arteries and lower the rate of heart attacks and strokes. Over time, we have developed the data to determine at what level the reduction is most effective and where our goals should be.

There are several different levels of bad cholesterol that are cut-off points, which have been established by literally looking at which levels kill people and which levels save them. After a risk assessment, we can determine which level best suits your particular risk profile.

Particular risks for heart disease are family history, being a male, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, age, smoking, obesity, inactivity and a few other contributing factors. If you have several of these risk factors then you need a lower bad cholesterol level in order to control and decrease your risk of illness.

So where does this bad cholesterol come from?

Well, as we discussed, it is partly from diet. The major source, however, is your own body. Your own genetic makeup decides how much good and bad cholesterol you make.

There are folks that are morbidly obese and have normal cholesterol levels as well as folks that are thin as a rail and have sky-high cholesterol.

The ways in which we attack these other risk factors are to eliminate as many as possible.

Obviously, number one would be to quit smoking.

Number two would be to control your blood pressure either through low salt diets or medications or both.

Weight loss, moderate exercise (30 minutes three to five times a week) among other health promoting activities will also reduce your risk factors.

However, some factors cannot be changed. Your age, sex and family history are pretty well etched in stone.

Your cholesterol falls somewhere between these two extremes. While largely genetically determined, it can be altered.

We use diet, exercise and often medications called "statins." These medicines work in the liver by blocking the production of bad cholesterol and actually raise the levels of good cholesterol. By and large they are safe and well tolerated. There is a small group of people that cannot take them. There are other medicines we use for people who cannot tolerate statins.

You can start on your healthy future by cutting the amounts of fat in your diet and exercising and stopping smoking. We urge you to make an appointment with your health care provider and get your risk factors analyzed and your cholesterol checked.

Good health, CNMI.

John L. Doyle MD is the Medical Affairs director of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. This article is an unsolicited and unpaid contribution by the author.

Searching for empathy in the wake of Ferguson riots

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

Sympathy is easy.

You see someone in pain, you measure the depth of their anger by the fire in their eyes, you gauge their despair by the piercing tone of their lamentations and you stretch out a hand and say "I'm so sorry."

You can be a part of their world for the few moments that you share their grief, and then you retreat to your comfortable corner. That bridge between you and the sufferer is one you cross over rarely, but it's a pleasant trip because it makes you feel generous without investing too much human capital.

Empathy is another story. Sympathy puts you on the outside looking in and requires nothing more than an open heart.

But to walk in another person's shoes, to make his experience your own and embrace his pain from the inside is infinitely harder. It requires versatility, and something more difficult to manage: intellectual honesty. Sympathy is all about emotion, that squishy and comfortable part of ourselves while empathy demands clarity of thought and reason.

That's why I had no problem feeling devastated for Michael Brown's mother when she found out her son's killer was not going to be prosecuted for the crime. That's why I felt relief for a police officer who quite obviously did not go out looking for a black boy to kill. That's why I felt revulsion for the vandals who passed for legitimate protestors Monday night, the ones who trashed Ferguson when they heard the Grand Jury's decision.

Devastation. Relief. Revulsion. These are all emotions that collide into one another in this painful case, and they're joined by a lot of others that make it difficult if not impossible to think rationally.

And that's why it's hard for me to empathize with any of the major players. I'm not the mother of a black man and have no idea what it must be like to send your child out into the day with the very real possibility he won't come home safely.

I'm not a police officer who walks out of his own home in the knowledge that turning a dark corner could cost me my life, or force me to take the life if someone else.

I'm not a person who thinks the color of my skin makes me a stranger to true justice, and warps my view of my fellow citizens, to the point that I will set fire to a city and take a bat to shatter windows when those citizens render a legal decision I despise.

I look at these people from the outside, and feel some sympathy for all of them but I'll never fully be able to understand what animates them, what condemns them to despair or brings ultimate salvation.

And frankly, I don't think I'm unique. In the wake of the Ferguson decision, and during the long months between the killing of Michael Brown and the Grand Jury's "no bill," there's been no shortage of opinions about who or what is to blame. Not one of those opinions, not a one, was completely unbiased. Even my fellow lawyers lined up to say their pieces based not on any deep understanding of the law of Grand Juries, if there is such a thing, but rather based on their own prejudices and preferences.

Defense attorneys started taking the side of the dead victim, while prosecutors started wondering why the Ferguson DA was doing everything in his power-allegedly-to avoid an indictment. It became a free for all, and instead of looking at the facts from a reasonable perspective we all started doing our own version of "Rashomon."

The problem is, that means the truth gets lost. We can feel sympathy for Michael Brown's mother but we shouldn't allow that to turn us into police haters, convinced that the boys in blue have a vendetta against black men. What sheer idiocy.

We can appreciate the very dangerous job our police officers do every day without believing in contradiction of the evidence that an unarmed boy with a large frame was so threatening he deserved to be shot in self-defense.

And most importantly, we can understand how frustrating it must be to see young black men on the losing side of every encounter with police without looking away when that frustration becomes an excuse for barbarism, and when those frustrated citizens impersonate animals.

Nothing, not even a dead black youth justifies burning down a city where innocent people live, work and just try to make it to the next day.

Obviously, I will never be black and face the challenges that still exist in our imperfect society. I will also never use a gun as part of my daily effort to keep order, deliver justice and stay alive to greet my loved ones at day's end.

I cannot walk in the shoes of either. But as a lawyer, I can and do respect the law even when it's misapplied by my colleagues or when it's applied appropriately and still renders something painful, undesirable and infuriating.

I cannot empathize, and yet I force myself to try. It's something we all need to do because unless we look at the world with someone else's eyes, from the inside, we will condemn ourselves to more bloodshed, more riots and a justice system held hostage to emotion and prime time ratings.

GOP

From Page 10

That's not exclusively a Republican disease. At the end of the Reagan administration in 1988, most Democrats insisted that inflation had not declined—even though it had, dramatically, since Reagan took office.

Is the climate getting warmer? Most Democrats say it is, but only half of Republicans do (and only about one-quarter think it's mostly due to human activity). And according to a study released this week, Democrats and Republicans even have different memories of weather they have experienced themselves.

After the winter of 2012, "Democrats (were) more likely than Republicans to perceive local winter temperatures as warmer than usual," reported the paper in the journal Nature Climate Change.

In the case of immigration, there's a practical reason the dispute has been cast the way it has. Republicans are on much safer ground arguing that Obama's action was unconstitutional than they would be attacking the details of his policy directive.

Debating whether the 4 million people affected by the executive action, mostly relatives of people who are here legally, should all be deported is not something Republican leaders are eager to do. Such a discussion would divide their party and risk alienating more Latino voters.

But it won't be easy, now, to avoid having the fight. "We will not stand idle as the president undermines the rule of law in our country and places lives at risk," House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, promised last week.

Boehner has ruled out impeachment, and to the disappointment of his own hard-liners he doesn't want to shut down the government over the issue. But there's a long list of other remedies Congress could attempt. It could increase funding for deportation and insist that Obama spend it. It could block funds for programs it doesn't like, in immigration or any other area. Heck, it could even pass an immigration law.

And, if none of that works, Republicans could try another strategy: They could sue. GOP-led state governments could argue that it will cost them to provide services to those newly legalized immigrants, and ask the federal courts to stop Obama from carrying out his order.

Already, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker—all of whom, not coincidentally, may run for the Republican presidential nomination—are looking for ways to do just that.

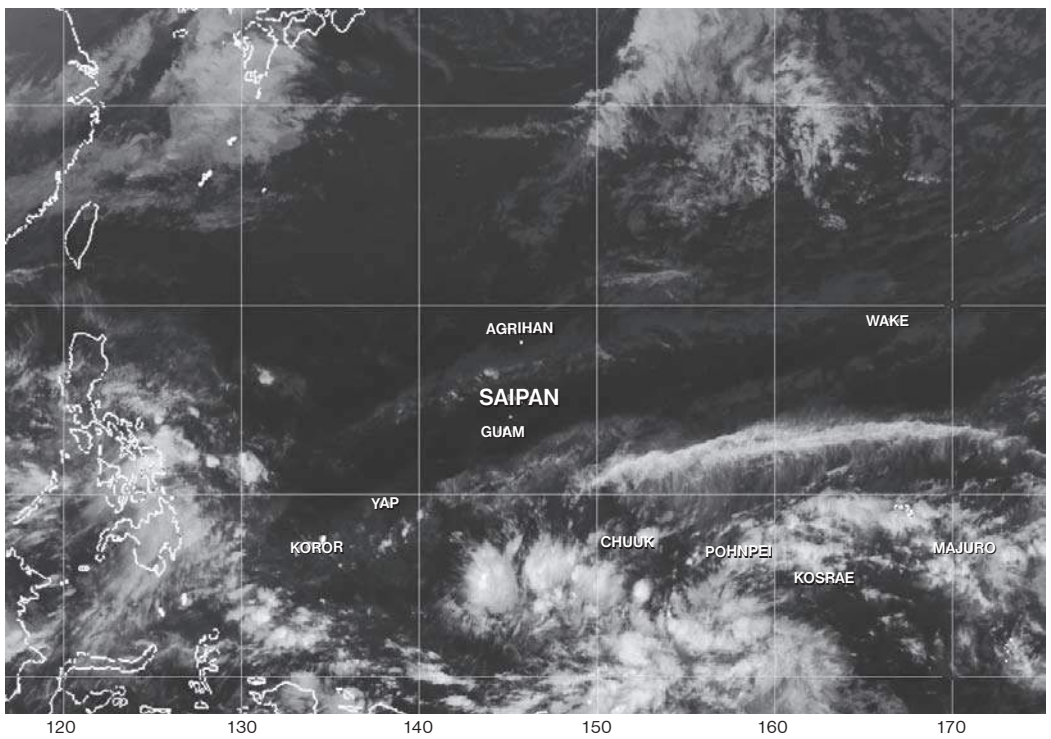
John Yoo, for one, thinks it might just work. After all, it's the American way.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° 77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from Midway through 25N180 to northeast of Wake Island at 21N173E then continues as a shear line to end north of Yap at 14N137E. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are present along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough runs east-southeastward from near Mindanao through circulations centered southwest of Koror at 4N130E south of Weno Chuuk at 3N150E and southwest of Kosrae at 1N158E to end at EQ162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen south of Koror and Yap southwest of a line from 6N130E to 1N143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 200 miles of a line from 6N142E to 1N163E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei and the Marshall Islands within 140 miles of a line from 9N152E to 7N174E. Similar weather is also found east of the Marshalls east of a line from 10N174E to 1N177E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼81
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼18
Hong Kong	Showers	▲62	▼59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼34
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼59
Miami	Showers	▲79	▼71
New York	Showers	▲57	▼34
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼41
Paris	Showers	▲44	▼38
Pusan	Windy	▲46	▼34
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Salem	Showers	▲42	▼28
San Francisco	Showers	▲62	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲33	▼24
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼40
Washington, DC	Showers	▲62	▼36

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:39 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
3:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
10:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:39 PM	1:14 AM
Tuesday	2:25 PM	2:10 AM
Wednesday	3:11 PM	3:06 AM
Thursday	3:59 PM	4:02 AM
Friday	4:49 PM	4:58 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Black Friday: The frenzy after the feast at 'I Love Saipan'

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

It was the frenzy after the feast early Friday morning as a plethora of Saipan residents flocked to "I Love Saipan" in Garapan just after midnight for its Black Friday sale.

"I'm just going to take whatever I find nice and put it in my basket and run right away!" the first customer in line said. "I also came to see some chaos."

Another Black Friday shopper said she followed her sister to the store to block other shoppers from grabbing items she wanted. "Last year I saved sixty bucks," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

One family of four even came with a strategy for when the doors opened. "We are going to run in there and I'll have my kids grab all the items they can see and get in line. After that, one of them will try it on to see if it fits, and then the others will block other people."

The doors opened at 2am as customers pushed, shoved, and sprinted their way to the merchandise ranging from 30 to 70 percent off.

Within minutes, clothes were cleared off the store's shelves, hangers were on the ground, and the post dividing the lines had already been knocked down.

"Everyone is so excited and the bottom line is that they want to get to what they want to buy. Last year, we had a lot of people pushing and shoving each other and our employees," said Edward Duenas, I Love Saipan general manager. "Preparation for this is yearlong."

Last week's sale marked the store's 5th Black Friday opening.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Customers crowd the I Love Saipan first floor to get discounted store items on Black Friday.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Customers wait for food stalls to open just after midnight at I Love Saipan in Garapan.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
I Love Saipan employees pose for a photo minutes before opening the doors for the annual Black Friday sale.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Customers push, shove, and sprint their way to merchandise seconds after the doors of I Love Saipan were opened for Black Friday.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Saipan residents flood the I Love Saipan store as doors opened at 2am for Black Friday.

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, Plaintiff,	] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 12-0302
-v-	] NOTICE OF SALE
JOHN HENRY I. TAGABUEL and MICHELLE T. IGINOEF, aka MICHELLE MARIA I. TAGABUEL, Defendants.	]

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 30, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 010 K 77, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 901 square meters, more or less, as more particularly shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded August 19, 1987, as File no. 87-2911 at the Office of Commonwealth Recorder.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 12, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 21st day of October, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsmile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administrator:
Henry H. San Nicolas

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	) Civil Action) No. 13-0188
JOSE P. SAN NICOLAS, Decedent.	) NOTICE OF) HEARING ON THE) PETITION FOR) FINAL DECREE OF) DISTRIBUTION) Date: Dec. 16, 2014) Time: 1:30 P.M.) Judge: Wiseman

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JOSE P. SAN NICOLAS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Henry H. San Nicolas**, Administrator of the Estate of Jose P. San Nicolas, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a **Petition for Final Decree of Distribution**. The attorney for Administration is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**.

The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the **16th day of December, 2014 at 1:30pm** at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **Guma' Hustisia**, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 24th day of October 2014.

Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

CRM Agency Meeting

December 04, 2014, Thursday 10:00 A.M.
BECQ 3rd Floor Conference Room

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

1) CUC EXPLORATORY GEO-THERMAL WELL DRILLING PROJECT - CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2014-X-054

a. Permit application/summary by DCRM
b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/DCRM
c. Permit status determination (CRM Agencies/CRM)

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ FRANCES A. CASTRO
DIRECTOR, DCRM

NMC's Start Smart seminar wraps up

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's Start Smart seminar wrapped up Wednesday last week with 48 seniors from Rota and Tinian high schools flown over to attend the outreach event at the Saipan World Resort. The seminar has been instrumental, according to the college, in preparing students for college and bringing a host of them to "Start Smart" at the community college here.

It was the first time for Rota and Tinian seniors to be flown over to Saipan for the event, according to the college. Previously, seminars were held on the respective islands.

The three-day event featured both private and public school students. On Wednesday, talks taught students to "get smart" about credit so they would learn how to use credit wisely. Financial aid information, and options for paying for college were also presented.

In all, hundreds of high school seniors from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian Junior Senior High School, Dr. Rita Inos Junior Senior High School, Mt. Carmel, and Grace Christian Academy participated in the seminar.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart and the Public Schools System's Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan also were listed as speakers at the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High school seniors from Tinian and Rota participated in NMC's Start Smart seminar last week. The Start Smart seminar was made possible by the College Access Challenge Grant Program.

Team building exercises and an icebreaker led by LJ Castro got students to bond. Graduates from the workforce also talked with students about their first-hand experiences of college.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ambassadors from the College Access Challenge Grant Program helped to facilitate the Start Smart event.

Seniors from Marianas High School pose for a photo at NMC's Start Smart seminar. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School seniors show their information packets during the NMC Start Smart event last week. The Start Smart seminar was made possible by the College Access Challenge Grant Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A high school senior participates in Financial Aid Jeopardy, an activity that reinforces key financial aid information and points.

Las Vegas Night

Thousands tested their luck at the Rotary Club's Las Vegas Night last Saturday night at Fiesta Resort and Spa.

PHOTOS BY DENNIS CHAN

A game of roulette has players absorbed in their potential fortunes.

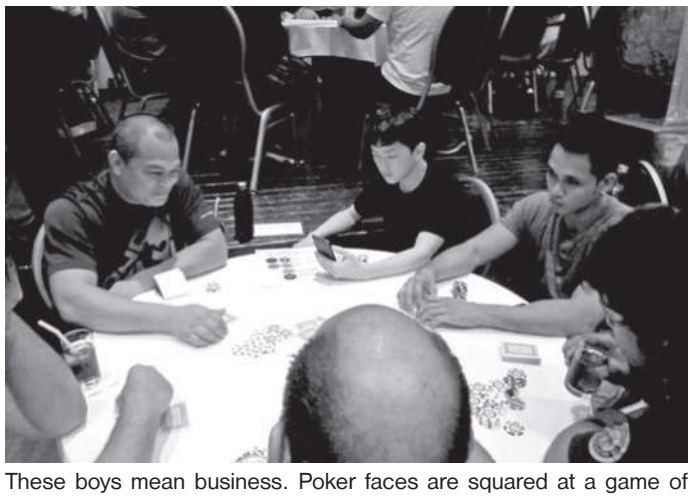
Joyce Sy happily presents her winning tickets to Rotary officials for her $2000 prize.

A light-hearted game of blackjack has all participants smiling.

How lucky am I tonight? Roulette players hope for the best.

Make way for our winner! Florevick Carino claims her $10,000.

Carino shows winning ticket number 8501 to emcee and Rotary vice president Curtis Dancoe.



These boys mean business. Poker faces are squared at a game of Texas Hold 'Em tables last Saturday night.

Business

US agency threatens to act against air bag maker

DETROIT (AP)—U.S. safety regulators have threatened fines and legal action against Takata Corp. unless the company admits that its driver's air bag inflators are defective and agrees to a nationwide recall.

In a letter to Takata's Washington office, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration gave the Japanese company until tomorrow, Tuesday, to file paperwork declaring a defect and expanding the recall from high-humidity states to the full nation.

The company's air bags have been blamed for at least five deaths and multiple injuries worldwide. They can inflate with too much force, blowing apart a mental canister and spewing shrapnel.

The letter is the first step in a legal process to compel a nationwide recall. To do so, the agency must determine that there's a safety defect and hold a public hearing. Then it can go to court. It can also fine the company up to $7,000 per vehicle with defective inflators, and NHTSA says there are millions on the road today.

"Be assured that we will use all of our authority and resources," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said in a statement.

Takata has maintained that the air bag problems are caused by prolonged exposure to airborne moisture, and that there's no need for a national recall. Moisture can make the chemical propellant in the air bags burn too fast. Boundaries of the recall zone vary by manufacturer, but generally it covers Gulf Coast states, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and some U.S. territories.

A company spokesman was working on a response Wednesday.

In the letter, NHTSA says Takata hasn't safety defect papers as demanded by the agency Nov. 18. The company, the letter said, has not explained why two driver's side air bag inflators ruptured outside the high-humidity areas.

"Despite the severe consequences of air bag ruptures and mounting data demonstrating a safety defect, Takata responded that it did not agree with NHTSA's basis for a nationwide recall," the letter stated.

The agency cites inflator ruptures that injured drivers in California and North Carolina as justification for the national recall.

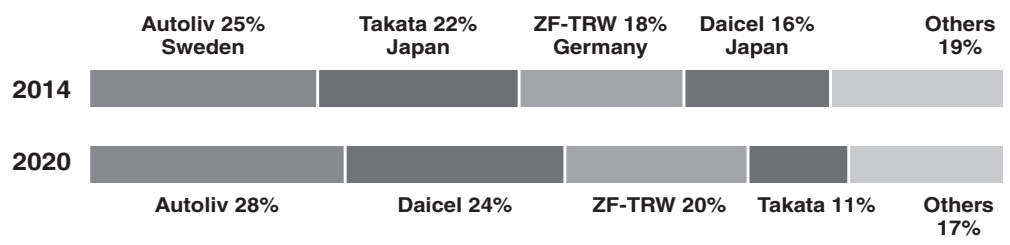
About 8 million vehicles from 10 manufacturers have been recalled in the U.S., and 14 million worldwide. The vehicles have Takata driver or passenger air bags, or both. So far the government is not seeking a national recall of passenger air bags, saying that data doesn't support it outside of high-humidity areas.

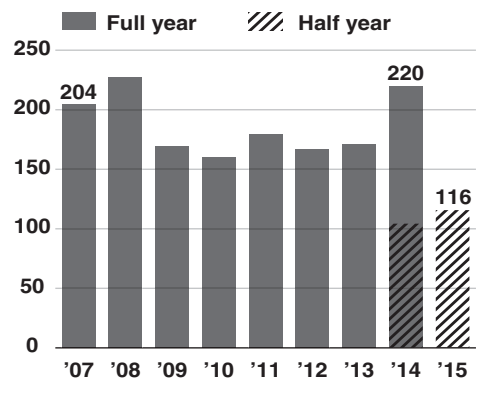
NHTSA also is moving to get automakers to agree to minimum boundaries for the passenger air bag recalls in high-humidity areas with average dew points of 60 degrees or higher.

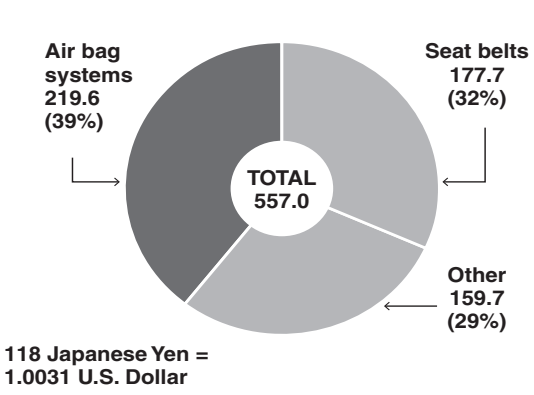
Its first target was Chrysler. In a letter Tuesday, NHTSA told the company to expand its recall and accused it of moving too slowly to notify car owners. The company says it's working on a response.

Takata's air bag market share

Around 16 million cars using Takata air bags have been recalled worldwide over the past six years. More than 10 million of those are in the United States. Federal safety regulators called on automakers to conduct a nationwide recall of vehicles that contain driver's-side airbags made by Takata.






SALES BY PRODUCT CATEGORY
In 2014, in billions of yen
Air bag systems 219.6 (39%)
Seat belts 177.7 (32%)
TOTAL 557.0
Other 159.7 (29%)
118 Japanese Yen = 1.0031 U.S. Dollar

Sources: Reuters,Valient Automotive Market Research; Takata Corp.
Graphic: Tribune News Service

* Ending March of each year

Black Friday sales fall as sales start earlier

NEW YORK (AP)—The crowds of bargain hunters that rush through store doors the day after Thanksgiving have thinned out.

U.S. shoppers spent $9.1 billion at stores on Black Friday, according to data out Saturday from research firm ShopperTrak. That's a drop of 7 percent compared with the same day last year.

But it's too early to call the holiday shopping season a dud, said Bill Martin, ShopperTrak' s co-founder. Sales on Thanksgiving jumped 24 percent to $3.2 billion. And overall sales for the two days are expected to slip half a percent to $12.29 billion. The figures don't include online transactions.

For the second straight year, the report suggests that more people avoided the crowds on Black Friday by avoiding time at home on Thanksgiving Day. This year, many large retail stores decided to open their doors to eager shoppers for extended hours on the holiday.

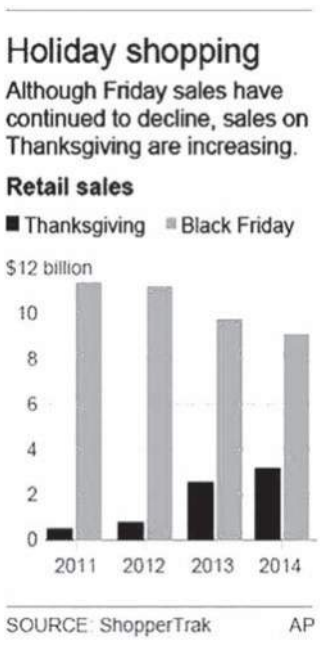
"People are changing their behavior," Martin said. "We've seen this for two years in a row now. Stores opening on Thanksgiving are simply eroding sales from Black Friday."

The popularity of shopping online has also lured people away from brick-and-mortar stores. In a separate report out Saturday, IBM said online sales for Black Friday climbed 9.5 percent over the same day last year. More than one of every four transactions were made using a smartphone or tablet computer.

AP

Shoppers, Manuel Orellano, middle, with his daughter Marcela, left, and her son Manuel, 6, shop for children clothing at JCPenney at Glendale Galleria shopping mall in Glendale, Calif, Friday, Nov. 28, 2014.

Some people saw no reason to rush to the stores before the weekend.



In Phoenix, Elaine Vanas and her daughter, Christine, were out picking up coats on Saturday, saying they disliked the long lines on Black Friday. At JC Penney, the two found a $50 house coat for Christine's grandmother for $20, and bought another $200 coat for $20.

"I'm not cheap but I'm frugal," Elaine Vanas said.

Retail businesses have highs hopes for the holiday shopping season. The National Retail Federation predicts that sales for the last two months of the year will hit $616.9 billion, an increase of 4.1 percent over the same period of 2013. That would count as the biggest increase for that sales period since 2011. But it would still be slower than the 6 percent pace typical before 2007, the year the Great Recession started.

Delta adds Airbus aircraft to its fleet

Delta Air Lines has chosen the Airbus A350-900 and A330-900neo to replace older generation Boeing 747 and 767 aircraft starting in 2017 and 2019, respectively.

The order for 25 state-of-the-art Airbus A350-900 aircraft and 25 advanced Airbus A330-900neo aircraft fits within Delta's existing capacity and capital expenditure plan and continues the airline's focus on making prudent, cost-effective investments in its fleet.

"Delta always approaches fleet decisions with a balance of economic efficiency, customer experience enhancements, network integration and total cost of ownership," Nat Pieper, Delta Air Lines vice president – fleet strategy and transactions, said. "The A350 and A330neo support our long-haul, transoceanic strategy and join a mix of Boeing and Airbus aircraft that provide exceptional flexibility for Delta's global network as well as strong cash-on-cash returns for our shareholders."

The long-range Airbus A350-900 will continue Delta's optimization of its Pacific network, operating primarily on long-range routes between the U.S. and Asia. The jets are expected to generate a 20-percent improvement in operating cost per seat compared to the Boeing 747-400 aircraft they will replace. Delta will take delivery of the A350 beginning in the second quarter of 2017.

The A350-900 will be powered by two fuel-efficient Rolls Royce Trent XWB engines.

The widebody A330-900neo, an enhancement of Airbus' successful A330 family featuring greater aerodynamic and economic efficiency, will be deployed on medium-haul trans-Atlantic markets as well as select routes connecting the U.S. West Coast and Asia. The aircraft are scheduled to enter the Delta fleet in 2019 and will deliver a 20-percent operating cost savings per seat over the Boeing 767-300ER aircraft it will replace.

The A330neo features the Rolls Royce Trent 7000 engine that is built with similar technology to the Trent XWB on the Airbus A350.

Delta began a structured fleet renewal in 2011 with the selection of new Boeing 737-900ER aircraft along with Boeing 717s and two-class Bombardier CRJ-900 regional jets, and continued it with transactions for Airbus A321 and A330 aircraft. Those aircraft are replacing inefficient older technology airplanes, generating substantial cost improvement and increased customer satisfaction. ***(Delta)***

Plunging crude prices hammer energy companies

NEW YORK (AP)—A decision by OPEC this week to maintain current levels of oil production hammered major energy companies in the U.S. and abroad.

Many energy experts had expected the group of oil producing countries, which met in Vienna this week, to act to halt a slide in the price of crude since this summer.

A barrel of benchmark U.S. crude, which cost well above $100 as recently as June, had fallen to about $73 as of this week. OPEC announced Thursday that it would not cut production.

The effect was immediate.

The price of benchmark U.S. crude tumbled 10 percent Friday to settle at $66.15 a barrel.

Shares of companies across the energy industry fell. Chevron Corp. slid 5 percent while Exxon Mobil fell 4 percent. Newfield Exploration fell the most among companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index, dropping 16 percent.

But the pain being felt by energy producers is proving to be a big gain for consumers and businesses that are heavily reliant on energy.

Riding high are the airlines, package delivery services and cruise lines, which are spending less on fuel. Southwest Airlines rose 6.5 percent Friday, the most in the S&P 500 index, while Delta Air Lines Inc. was the second-biggest gainer, climbing 5.5 percent.

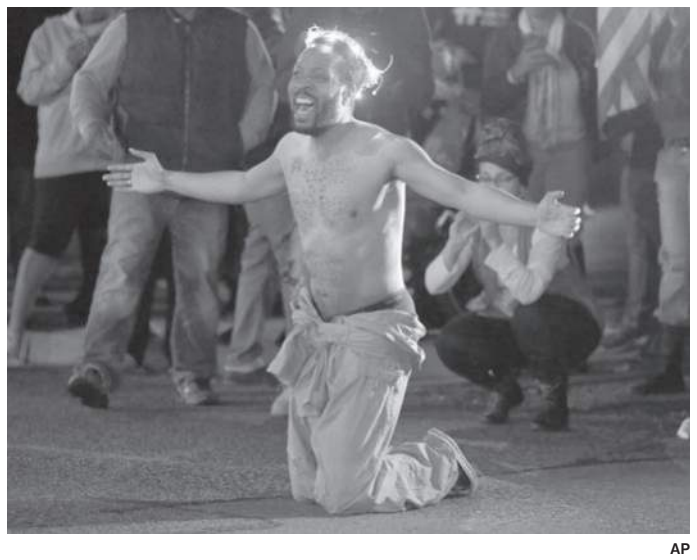
Nation

Officer who shot Michael Brown resigns in Ferguson

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP)—The Ferguson police officer who fatally shot 18-year-old Michael Brown resigned Saturday, and protests intensified in the St. Louis suburb where violence erupted earlier this week when a grand jury decided not to indict him.

Darren Wilson, who had been on administrative leave since the Aug. 9 shooting, resigned effective immediately, according to his lawyer, Neil Bruntrager, who declined further comment. An attorney for Brown's family didn't immediately return messages seeking comment.

More than 100 protesters gathered near police headquarters, where they were outnumbers by officers, following the news. At least one person was arrested after a brief standoff with officers, while others wearing white masks sat in a nearby street blocking traffic. Another protester burned an American flag.



AP
A man kneels in the middle of a street and yells at police before being arrested outside the Ferguson Police Department Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014, in Ferguson, Mo.

But many seemed unfazed by the resignation. Several merely shrugged their shoulders when asked what they thought, while Rick Campbell flatly said he didn't care about the resignation, noting: "I've been protesting out here since August."

"We were not after Wilson's job," civil rights activist the Rev. Al Sharpton, who planned to preach Sunday at the St. Louis church where Brown's funeral was held, added later in a written statement. "We were after Michael Brown's justice."

Brown's parents were set to attend the Sunday service with Sharpton.

Brown, who was black, was unarmed when Wilson, who is white, fatally shot him in the middle of a Ferguson street, where his body was left for several hours as police investigated and angry onlookers gathered.

Some witnesses have said Brown had his hands up when Wilson shot him. Wilson told the grand jury that he feared for his life when Brown hit him and reached for his gun.

Wilson, who had been with the Ferguson Police Department for less than three years, told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch he decided to step down after the department told him it had received threats of violence if he remained on the force.

"I'm not willing to let someone else get hurt because of me," Wilson told the newspaper Saturday.

Ferguson officials planned to make a statement on Wilson's resignation Sunday, said Stephanie Karr, city attorney for Ferguson. Karr earlier this week said Wilson had been on paid leave pending the outcome of an internal police investigation.

The U.S. Justice Department also is conducting a civil rights investigation into the shooting and a separate investigation of police department practices.

Away from the protests Saturday night, resident Victoria Rutherford said she believed Wilson should have not only resigned, but been convicted of a crime.

Scores of Russian gays are seeking asylum in US

NEW YORK (AP) -- Had he stayed in Russia, Andrew Mironov would be settling in to a stable job with an oil company, likely with a newly awarded doctoral degree in electrical engineering.

Instead, he faces an uncertain future in New York City as one of scores of Russian gays seeking asylum in the United States because of hostility and harassment in their homeland.

"In Russia, I would have gotten my Ph.D. this fall, had a job and health insurance," said Mironov, 25. "Now, here, I'm nobody."

Yet the sacrifices have been worth it, Mironov says, given the fears that lingered after he was severely beaten by several assailants in the lobby of a gay bar in his home city of Samara.

"Which is more important, happiness or success?" he asked over coffee in midtown Manhattan. "I would say happiness. I feel no fear here."

There are no firm statistics on the number of gay Russian asylum seekers; U.S. government agencies that handle applications do not report such details. However, the Department of Homeland Security's latest figures show that overall applications for asylum by Russians totaled 969 in the 2014 fiscal year, up 34 percent from 2012.

The increase is due in part to the worsening anti-gay climate in Russia, according to Immigration Equality, a New York-based organization which provides legal services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender immigrants.

The organization says the number of inquiries it received from gay Russians seeking U.S. asylum has risen from 68 in 2012 to 127 in 2013 and 161 through Oct. 30 of this year. During that period, gay-rights gatherings in Russia were frequently targeted by assailants, and the parliament passed a law targeting "gay propaganda" that was widely viewed as a means of deterring gay activism.

Said Mironov of that law, "It helped homophobic people feel the government is on their side."

Suspect in Etan Patz's killing asked: Did I do it?

NEW YORK (AP)—As he watched TV reports on a 33-year-old missing-child case, a man who'd never been a suspect started pondering whether he was the killer, he later told a psychologist.

"'Did I (do) it?' . It was just a thought that came into my head," Pedro Hernandez recalls in the psychologist's report, part of a recent court filing that adds new details about his defense in a case that galvanized the missing-children's movement. "I was, like, nervous and questioning myself ... trying to make sense."

Hernandez would soon tell police he did choke 6-year-old Etan Patz in 1979, confessing after investigators were tipped that he'd spoken of having harmed a child. But defense psychological experts later found him unsure of whether the brutal scenario he'd described was real or imaginary.

"I believed it in my mind that I did it, but I don't think I did it," Hernandez, 53, told one psychologist.

The interplay between belief and reality is shaping up to be a central issue in his murder trial, set for early next year. Since a judge ruled this week that jurors could hear Hernandez's confession, it will be up to them to decide whether it was true.

His defense says it was fiction from a man with an IQ in the bottom 2 percent of the population and mental illness that makes it difficult for him to distinguish real life from fantasy. Prosecutors say his confession was legitimate, and they're seeking to limit proposed expert testimony on the psychological phenomenon of false confessions.

"We believe the evidence that Mr. Hernandez killed Etan Patz to be credible and persuasive and that his statements are not the product of any mental illness," the Manhattan district attorney's office has said.

Etan vanished while walking to his school bus stop May 25, 1979, now memorialized as National Missing Children's Day. Hernandez then worked at a nearby corner store.

JUDICIARY
Northern Mariana Islands

Request for Proposals
14-COURTS-02

Janitorial Services for the Guma Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for janitorial services for the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewee/House of Justice, Saipan, for a period of one (1) year.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on or after **November 24, 2014** at the office of the Budget and Finance Director, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp.

A **mandatory** pre-proposal meeting and site visit will be held on **December 16, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.**, local time at the Guma Husistia Conference Room. Any questions or inquiries shall be discussed at the meeting.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP14-COURTS-02** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies to the Budget and Finance Director, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **December 19, 2014, local time, 10:00 a.m.** Proposals must expressly state that the price offered is good for a one (1) year period. Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, December 19, 2014**. Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 19, 2014**, AND the proposal must be received at the Office of the Budget and Finance Director no later than **December 26, 2014, close of business**.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Government and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ Juan Diego V. Tenorio
Budget and Finance Director

GPPC, INC.
Job Vacancy Announcement

(10) Civil Engineering Technicians: $6.50 - $8.50/hour OR $1,300.00 - $2,700.00/month
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing, as well as, overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities, under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

(05) Mechanical Engineering Technicians: $6.50 - $8.50/hour OR $1,300.00 - $1,800.00/month
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a Mechanical Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Mechanical Engineering in planning, designing, as well as, overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities, under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

(05) Electrical Engineering Technician: $6.50 - $8.50/hour OR $1,300.00 - $1,800.00/month
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as an Electrical Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Electrical Engineering in planning, designing, as well as, overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities, under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

(10) Auto Body Repairer: $6:10 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 2 years' experience as an Auto Body Repairer. Knowledgeable on how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames.

(10) Truck Driver: $6.10 - $8.75/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2-5 years' experience as a Truck Driver with knowledge on how to drive a Tractor Trailer or Trucks that has a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW for various construction materials transportation.

(08) Plumber: $6.10 - $7.75/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experienced as a plumber with knowledge on how to assemble, install, alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, as well as, various types of liquids and gases. Able to install or assemble heating and cooling equipment, mechanical control systems and sprinkler fitters.

(07) Painter: $6.10 - $7:50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years' experience as Painter. Knowledgeable on how to operate/tend various painting machines. Able to paint transportation equipment surfaces, such as, automobiles, buses, trucks, trains, boats, airplanes, and etc.

(25) Carpenter: $6.10 - $8.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years' experience as a Carpenter. Knowledgeable on how to construct, erect, install, and repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as, concrete forms, building frameworks, partitions, joists, studding, rafters, wooden stairways, window, door frames, and hardwood floors.

(10) Automobile Electrician: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
Must have at least 5 years work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. Must be knowledgeable on electric motor, alternator, starter and motor rewinding. Able to perform his/her duties with minimal supervision.

(10) Electrician: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as an Electrician. Knowledgeable on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring of various equipment and fixtures. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems. Ensures that work is in accordance with relevant codes.

(15) Heavy Equipment Mechanic: $6.10 - $8.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years' experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Knowledgeable on how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulics, and pneumatic equipment, such as, cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

(40) Heavy Equipment Operator: $6.10 - $8.75.00/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as HE Operator. Knowledgeable on how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as, motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grate earth, erect structures, pour concretes, and etc.

(40) MASON: $6.10 - $8.00/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years' experience as a Mason. With knowledge on how to do smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs by using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters, patch voids, and use saws to cut expansion joints.

(10) Plumber: $6.10 - $7.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years' experience as a Plumber. Knowledgeable on how to assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases. Able to install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems, including sprinkler fitters.

(20) WELDER: $6.10 - $8.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a Welder. Knowledgeable on how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

All positions must be able to work flexible work hours.
Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan.
A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application.
Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required.
Closing Date: December 2, 2014
GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Asia

China urges Taiwan to keep bonds after election losses

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China urged Taiwan to protect the gains of landmark cooperation between the mainland and the self-ruled island after Taiwan's pro-Beijing ruling party was routed in local elections.

The defeat in Saturday's elections of the Nationalist Party, which lost nine cities and counties, including its longtime strongholds Taipei, the capital, and the major central city of Taichung, led to the resignation of Premier Jiang Yi-huah, who heads the Cabinet. President Ma Ying-jeou promised to make changes.

The election losses could jeopardize six years of talks with China that have led to 21 agreements, helping to lift Taiwan's half-trillion-dollar economy, while raising Beijing's hopes for political reunification. Beijing has claimed sovereignty over Taiwan since the Chinese civil war of the 1940s, but since taking office in 2008, Ma has set aside the old disputes to ease tensions through talks.

A top Chinese official on Saturday night urged people in Taiwan to protect those gains.

"We hope compatriots across the Strait will cherish hard-won fruits of cross-strait relations, and jointly safeguard and continue to push forward peaceful development of cross-strait relations," said Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office.

Taiwanese have been watching closely as Beijing takes a hard-line stance on demands for democratic rule in Hong Kong, a semiautonomous Chinese city that has been gripped by more two months of pro-democracy protests.

The heavy losses will make it tougher for Ma's Nationalists to hold onto the presidency in 2016.

"I must express apologies to the Nationalist Party and its supporters for making everyone disappointed," Ma told a news conference. "I've received the message people have sent via these elections. It's my responsibility and I will quickly offer a party reform plan to address everyone's demands. I won't avoid responsibility."

The chief opposition Democratic Progressive Party picked up seven offices in Saturday's elections. It favors continuing talks with China's Communist leadership, but disputes the dialogue framework that binds the two sides under Beijing's jurisdiction, instead preferring talks in an international setting.

Taliban raid kills two in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban attackers armed with suicide bomb vests and assault rifles killed two people, one a foreigner, during a raid on a guesthouse near the Afghan parliament Saturday, authorities said, the latest attack in the capital as NATO troops withdraw from the country.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi did not identify the dead, only saying they worked for a foreign aid group he declined to name. Security forces rescued six Afghans held hostage by the attackers during the assault, he said.

After storming the building in a residential suburb in west Kabul, one of the attackers detonated an explosives-packed suicide vest and security forces shot dead the other two, Sediqqi and Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said.

The Taliban claimed the attack in a statement, saying they targeted "a secret missionary center."

One witness, Samir Noorzai, said Europeans who worked as consultants for the Afghan government lived there. Other said it was the home of Christian missionaries.

The Taliban have waged a series of large-scale attacks on Kabul in recent days, including an assault in the upscale Wazir Akbar Khan district home to embassies and international agencies, and the suicide bombing of a British embassy vehicle. There have been about a dozen attacks in the past two weeks alone.

Meanwhile Saturday, Taliban attacks killed at least 11 Afghan soldiers in southern Helmand province, including one on a base once held by NATO forces, said Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor.

The Taliban has been launching assaults since Thursday on the base, once known as Camp Bastion until the British handed it over last month. Camp Bastion also once held Camp Leatherneck, a U.S. Marine base in the volatile southern province.

ASIAN BRIEFS

15 dead in attack in west China's Xinjiang region

BEIJING (AP)—An attack in China's troubled western Xinjiang region left 15 people dead and 14 injured, state media reported Saturday, the latest in a wave of ethnic violence there that has claimed dozens of lives over the past year. The official Xinhua News Agency reported that the attack took place at a "food street" Friday in Shache county, the same region where state media said a series of attacks in July left 96 people dead, including 59 assailants. The Tianshan news portal said the assailants in Friday's attack wielded explosives, knives and at least one vehicle. Xinhua reported that 11 of the 15 people killed were assailants. Police in Shache county declined to provide information about the incident.

Animals sacrificed in Nepal to bring good luck

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A festival believed to be the largest animal sacrifice ritual in the world began Friday in southern Nepal, where devotees believe the sacrifices bring good luck and a Hindu goddess will grant their wishes. In the fields outside a temple before dawn, a priest dropped five drops of his own blood and sacrificed a rat, chicken, pigeon, goat, and pig to start the festival. More than 5,000 buffaloes were ritually killed during the day. Many other animals will be killed during the two-day festival at Gadhimai temple in the jungles of Bara district about 160 miles (100 miles) south of Katmandu. Organizers and the authorities defend the festival held every five years as a generations-old tradition, though animal rights activists decry it as barbaric. During the 2009 festival, an estimated 200,000 animals and birds were sacrificed.

Thai legislature approves ban on surrogacy

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's interim parliament has given initial approval to a bill banning commercial surrogacy, the practice of hiring a woman to carry a fetus to term, a lawmaker said Friday. Thailand was rocked by several surrogacy scandals earlier this year. One involved an Australian couple who took home a healthy baby girl born from a Thai surrogate mother but left behind her twin brother who had Down syndrome. The other case involved a Japanese man who fathered at least 16 babies via Thai surrogates. National Legislative Assembly member Chet Sirtharanon said the bill passed its first reading on Thursday, and a finalized version was expected to be ready for consideration within 30 days. The interim government installed after a military coup in May vowed to outlaw commercial surrogacy and punish offenders with up to 10 years in prison. Thailand is one of the few countries in Asia where commercial surrogacy is not specifically banned by law.

World

Murder charges vs Mubarak junked

CAIRO (AP)—A judge dismissed murder charges Saturday against former President Hosni Mubarak and acquitted his security chief over the killing of protesters during Egypt's 2011 uprising, crushing any hope of a judicial reckoning on behalf of the hundreds victims of the revolt that toppled him.

Yet instead of outrage, a largely muted initial reaction greeted the decision in an Egypt where unlicensed protests draw stiff prison terms and many remain fearful over their security four years after the nation's Arab Spring revolt.

Some 2,000 young people protested the verdict near Cairo's Tahrir Square, the birthplace of the 2011 uprising closed off Saturday by soldiers and police, though open a day earlier despite widespread fears of violent Islamist protests. They chanted against the military, whose former chief, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, is now the president.

"The people want to bring down the regime!" they shouted, using one of the chief slogans in the 18-day, anti-Mubarak uprising.

In the evening, police broke up the gathering, firing water cannon and tear gas and driving protesters into side streets after supporters of the banned Muslim Brotherhood joined the protest. An Interior Ministry statement said that Brotherhood supporters pelted security forces with rocks and fought with the protesters.

AP

In this image made from video broadcast on Sada el-Balad via Egypt's State Television, ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak sits in the defendant cage during his trial at a court in Cairo, Egypt, Saturday, Nov. 29.

Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to brief reporters, said police arrested 29 people.

A statement from the health ministry early Sunday said one person was killed and nine were injured in the clashes.

The dispersal of protesters contrasted with the jubilant well-wishers who greeted Mubarak after the decision when he returned to his temporary home at a Nile-side military hospital. He later triumphantly waved back to supporters from his hospital window.

A television interviewer reached him by telephone, asking whether he had ordered the killing.

"I did not do anything at all," replied Mubarak, who was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in 2012 on charges related to the killing of protesters. The verdict was overturned on appeal the following year.

The monarch of close U.S. ally Bahrain, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, also called to congratulate Mubarak, according to the official news agency of the Gulf Arab island nation.

Mubarak, who assumed Egypt's highest office in 1981 following the assassination of Anwar Sadat, has spent virtually all the time since he was detained in April 2011 in hospitals due to poor health.

Pope prays in Istanbul mosque in new outreach

ISTANBUL (AP)—Pope Francis stood Saturday for two minutes of silent prayer facing east in one of Turkey's most important mosques, a powerful vision of Christian-Muslim understanding at a time when neighboring countries are experiencing violent Islamic assault on Christians and religious minorities.

His head bowed, eyes closed and hands clasped in front of him, Francis prayed alongside the Grand Mufti of Istanbul, Rahmi Yaran, in the 17th-century Sultan Ahmet mosque, shifting gears to religious concerns on the second day of his three-day visit to Turkey.

"May God accept it," Yaran told the pope of their prayer.

The Vatican spokesman, Rev. Federico Lombardi called it a moment of "silent adoration." Lombardi said Francis told the mufti twice that Christians and Muslims must "adore" God and not just praise and glorify him.

It was a remarkably different atmosphere from Francis' first day in Turkey, when the simple and frugal pope was visibly uncomfortable with the pomp and protocol required of him for the state visit part of his trip. With President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's mega-palace, honor guard and horseback escort now behind him, Francis got down to the business of being pope, showing respect to Muslim leaders, celebrating Mass for Istanbul's tiny Catholic community and meeting with the spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians.

AP

In this photo provided by Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Pope Francis, left, joins Grand Mufti of Istanbul, Rahmi Yaran praying in the Sultan Ahmet mosque in Istanbul, Turkey, Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014.

Francis bowed before Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and asked him "to bless me and the church of Rome" at the end of an ecumenical service Saturday evening. The Orthodox leader obliged, kissing Francis' bowed head. The two major branches of Christianity represented by Bartholomew and Francis split in 1054 over differences on the primacy of the papacy, giving particular resonance to Francis' display of deference.

Health & Fitness

Researchers discover 'pre-cancers' in blood

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Many older people silently harbor a blood "pre-cancer"—a gene mutation acquired during their lifetime that could start them on the path to leukemia, lymphoma or other blood disease, scientists have discovered. It opens a new frontier on early detection and possibly someday preventing these cancers, which become more common with age.

The discovery was made by two international research teams working independently, decoding the DNA of about 30,000 people.

The gene mutations were rare in people under 40, but found in about 10 percent of those over 65 and in nearly 20 percent of folks over 90.

Having one of the mutations does not destine someone to develop a blood cancer, but it raises the risk of that more than tenfold. It also increases the chance of a heart attack or stroke, and of dying from any cause over the next four to eight years.

"We are hopeful that someday we would be able to use this as a screening test and identify individuals who are at risk," said one study leader, Dr. Benjamin Ebert of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

However, "nobody should go out tomorrow and look for these mutations," because there's no treatment for having one or way to prevent cancer from developing, he said.

The studies are to be presented next month at an American Society of Hematology conference but were published ahead of time, online Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine, because of their importance. They were led by the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard-affiliated groups, and mostly funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Each year in the United States alone, about 140,000 people are diagnosed with a blood cancer. All cancers are caused by bad genes, but most of them are not inherited—they pick up flaws during someone's lifetime for a variety of reasons. It usually takes several mutations for a cell to become so abnormal that cancer results.

Researchers wanted to see if they could find the first step in that process, the initial mutation, and detect a pre-malignant state long before cancer develops and symptoms appear.

One group looked at more than 17,000 people in a study of diabetes and heart disease risks. The other looked at more than 12,000 people in a study of mental disorders. All of their genes had been sequenced, which takes about a week and now costs less than $1,000. That produced a trove of "big data" that can be mined to study new things, Ebert said.

The teams independently found three genes whose mutations accounted for most of the blood cancer risk they saw. About 1 percent of people with one of the mutations went on to develop a blood cancer within a year, or 10 percent within a decade.

"These are exciting" findings, because they reveal the origins of some of these cancers, said Dr. Janis Abkowitz, blood diseases chief at the University of Washington in Seattle and past president of the American Society of Hematology. But people who have their genes analyzed for other reasons and accidentally discover one of these mutations should not panic, because "the odds are they won't develop cancer at all," she said.

The studies also found that people with one of the blood gene mutations had more than twice the normal risk of heart and strokes.

"That is a little bit of a surprise," said Dr. Parameswaran Hari, a blood cancer specialist at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin. "We don't know why but I think we'll figure it out soon."

Dr. Wyndham Wilson, a senior scientist at the National Cancer Institute, said it is way too soon to consider screening certain age groups because there is no evidence it would do any good or prolong survival.

"The number of people being harmed by all the tests, the anxiety, would far outweigh the benefits," he said.

It's not like screening for pre-cancers like polyps, which enables surgery that can prevent or cure colon cancer, he added.

"With blood cancers, you can't take them out."

Personal Trainer
Some common exercise pitfalls
People who exercise can see real benefits in health and weight control, but it is easy to fall into these errors:
Wrong steps
When increasing your walking speed, resist the temptation to take longer strides, which put extra stress on your shins
Increase the frequency (cadence) of your steps instead
Huffing and puffing
Breathing rapidly and shallowly does not deliver oxygen deep into the lungs, where it can be absorbed
Take long, deep breaths instead
'Spot reduction' myth
Particular exercises do not remove fat from specific parts of the body ("spot reduction")
Myth: Stair machines reduce fat on buttocks
Myth: Sit-ups reduce waist fat
Do a well-rounded exercise routine, and fat will gradually be burned from deposits all over the body
Source: Sports Medicine and the Physician
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

Lab-coated Muggles use Harry Potter to study brain

AP

Leila Wehbe, a Ph.D. student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, talks about an experiment that used brain scans made in this brain-scanning MRI machine on campus, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Harry Potter swoops around on his broom, faces the bully Malfoy and later runs into a three-headed dog. For scientists studying brain activity while reading, it's the perfect excerpt from the young wizard's many adventures to give their subjects.

Reading that section of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" activates some of the same regions in the brain that people use to perceive real people's actions and intentions. Scientists then map what a healthy brain does as it reads.

The research reported Wednesday has implications for studying reading disorders or recovery from a stroke. The team from Carnegie Mellon University was pleasantly surprised that the experiment actually worked.

Most neuroscientists painstakingly have tracked how the brain processes a single word or sentence, looking for clues to language development or dyslexia by focusing on one aspect of reading at a time. But reading a story requires multiple systems working at once: recognizing how letters form a word, knowing the definitions and grammar, keeping up with the characters' relationships and the plot twists.

Measuring all that activity is remarkable, said Georgetown University neuroscientist Guinevere Eden, who helped pioneer brain-scanning studies of dyslexia but wasn't involved in the new work.

"It offers a much richer way of thinking about the reading brain," Eden said, calling the project "very clever and very exciting."

No turning pages inside a brain-scanning MRI machine; you have to lie still. So at Carnegie Mellon, eight adult volunteers watched for nearly 45 minutes as each word of Chapter 9 of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" was flashed for half a second onto a screen inside the scanner.

Why that chapter? It has plenty of action and emotion, but there's not too much going on for scientists to track, said lead researcher Leila Wehbe, a Ph.D. student.

The research team analyzed the scans, second by second, and created a computerized model of brain activity involved with different reading processes. The research was published Wednesday by the journal PLoS One.

"For the first time in history, we can do things like have you read a story and watch where in your brain the neural activity is happening," said senior author Tom Mitchell, director of Carnegie Mellon's Machine Learning Department. "Not just where are the neurons firing, but what information is being coded by those different neurons."

Wehbe had the idea to study reading a story rather than just words or phrases.

But parsing the brain activity took extraordinary effort. For every word the researchers identified features—the number of letters, the part of speech, whether it was associated with a character or action or emotion or conversation. Then they used computer programming to analyze brain patterns associated with those features in every four-word stretch.

They spotted some complex interactions.

For example, the brain region that processes the characters' point of view is the one we use to perceive intentions behind real people's actions, Wehbe said. A region that we use to visually interpret other people's emotions helps decipher characters' emotions.

That suggests we're using pretty high-level brain functions, not just the semantic concepts but our previous experiences, as we get lost in the story, she said.

A related study using faster brain-scanning techniques shows that much of the neural activity is about the history of the story up to that point, rather than deciphering the current word, Mitchell added.

The team's computer model can distinguish with 74 percent accuracy which of two text passages matches a pattern of neural activity, he said, calling it a first step as researchers tease apart what the brain does when someone reads.

Life & Style

Fans go wild over 88-second 'Star Wars' teaser

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, a helmetless storm trooper appeared in frame, panicked and sweaty in the middle of vast desert landscape, kicking off the first official look at "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

After months of leaked images and idle speculation around director J.J. Abrams' film, Disney and Lucasfilm on Friday debuted an 88-second teaser trailer for the seventh entry into the blockbuster franchise online and in about 30 North American theaters.

The dark, energetic teaser, which has been watched nearly 3 million times on YouTube, blasts viewers with quick, disjointed images of classic and slightly altered "Star Wars" images, like TIE Fighters, X-Wings, droids and the Millennium Falcon.

Set to a new John Williams score, audiences get a peek at newcomers John Boyega (the storm trooper in question), Daisy Ridley, Oscar Isaac and a mysterious caped man in a frozen forest carrying a three-pronged light saber. Many assume the sinister, lumbering figure to be Adam Driver, who is rumored to be playing a villain in the highly secretive movie.

Andy Serkis is responsible for the haunting voiceover narration throughout the short spot, which previews a world 30 years after the events of "Return of the Jedi."

Despite some negative reaction, overall, fans were not disappointed, even with the sobering knowledge that the actual film doesn't hit theaters till Dec. 18, 2015.

"That `Star Wars' trailer gave me the tingles," director Edgar Wright said on Twitter.

"Language and emojis fail to express what's in my heart at this moment," actress Anna Kendrick added emphatically.

"Guardians of the Galaxy" director James Gunn also weighed in, writing, "Because everyone keeps asking me my opinion, I LOVED the Star Wars trailer. It infused me with a giddy-little-kidness."

AP

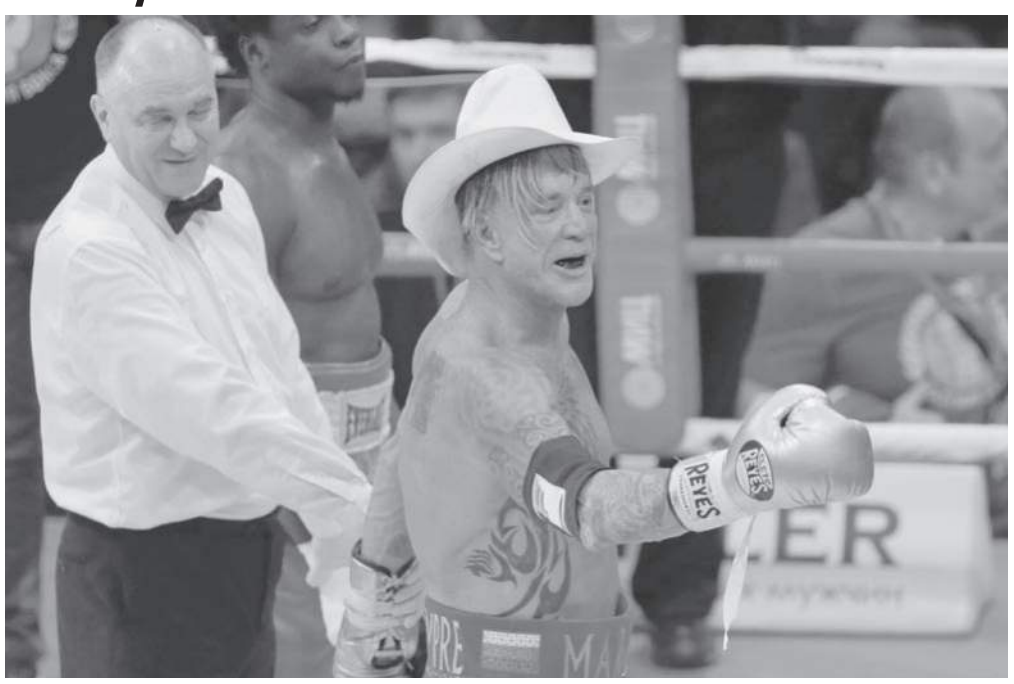
In this image released by Disney, a scene is shown from the upcoming film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," expected in theaters on Dec. 18, 2015.

Commenters on the long-standing "Star Wars" fan site TheForce.net were similarly delighted by the visuals, which seemed to pay homage to the grungy aesthetic of George Lucas's original trilogy.

There may have been no plot clues to be gleaned from the advertisement, but fan interest has certainly been piqued with the exciting array of images and the notable lack of original cast members Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford.

It might be some time before audiences get another opportunity to feast on new "Episode VII" images, but fan excitement, much like the force, is definitely awake. ***(AP)***

Mickey Rourke wins exhibition bout in Moscow



AP

US actor Mickey Rourke, foreground, celebrates his victory against his opponent Elliot Seymour, background left, of the United States, after their professional boxing match at the Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow, Friday, Nov. 28, 2014.

MOSCOW (AP)—Hollywood actor Mickey Rourke returned to the boxing ring Friday at the age of 62, defeating a fighter less than half his age in an exhibition bout.

Rourke sent 29-year-old Pasadena native Elliot Seymour to the canvas twice in the second round before the referee stopped the fight.

The bout at a Moscow concert hall was Rourke's first fight in 20 years. He took a break from acting in the early 1990s, finishing a three-year pro boxing career with six wins and two draws.

He hinted that the return to the ring has helped him cope with unspecified personal issues.

"I've got some things going on in my life so that (boxing has) sort of saved me from myself," Rourke told Russian TV. "And for a man like me, it's better to live in fear than go on in shame."

He has said he plans to hold another four fights in Russia.

Rourke prepared in a dressing room in front of a shrine featuring candles, images of saints, and photographs of his dogs. Rourke said he had been in mourning for his recently-deceased Chihuahua.

He took to the ring in a Stetson hat, a red-and-gold robe and shiny gold gloves, repeatedly crossing himself.

Rourke, who had said he lost 35 lbs (16 kilograms) to prepare to the fight, was much thinner than in his best-known cinematic fighting persona, when he bulked up to play the title character in 2008's "The Wrestler." His shorts bore his ring nickname from the 1990s, Marielito, with a Spanish-language message reading "always handsome."

The fight was held at a pedestrian pace, with both Rourke and Seymour frequently backing away from one another and letting down their guard.

Mark Strand, prize-winning poet, dies in NY at 80

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Strand, a Pulitzer Prize winner and former U.S. poet laureate widely praised for his concentrated, elegiac verse, has died. He was 80.

Strand, whose works were translated into more than 30 languages, died Saturday morning at his daughter's New York home from liposarcoma that had spread throughout his body, just weeks after entering hospice care, said his daughter, Jessica Strand.

"He was a funny, elegant, generous and brilliant man," she said of her father. "A man who lived to work and to be with his friends and the people he loved."

A distinctive presence even at the end of his life, with his lean build, white hair and round glasses, Strand received numerous honors, including the Pulitzer in 1999 for "Blizzard of One," a gold medal from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a National Book Award nomination this fall for "Collected Poems." He was appointed U.S. poet laureate for 1990-91, although he did not count his time in Washington among his great achievements.

"It's too close to the government. It's too official. I don't believe that poetry should be official," he told The Associated Press in 2011. "There are poets who aspire to such positions; I never did."

Author of more than a dozen books of poetry and several works of prose, Strand was haunted by absence, loss and passage of time from the beginning of his career, sometimes peering just beyond the contents of the page and wondering what, if anything, was out there. Some of his most famous lines appear in "Keeping Things Whole," a poem from "Sleeping With One Eye Open," his 1964 debut:

In a field
I am the absence
of field.
This is
always the case.
Wherever I am
I am what is missing.

Strand also wrote children's books and art criticism, helped edit several poetry anthologies and translated the Italian poet Rafael Alberti. He was a committed doubter, even about poetry. He went through occasional periods when he stopped writing verse and once quarreled with his publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, because he considered his 2012 collection "Almost Invisible" to be prose, not poetry.

More art in German trove identified as looted

BERLIN (AP)—The Jewish Claims Conference said Friday it has already identified a painting stolen by the Nazis among a newly published inventory of hundreds of works that belonged to late German collector Cornelius Gurlitt, and pushed for more time to investigate others.

Executive vice president Greg Schneider said in an email to The Associated Press that a Pissaro among about 250 artworks found in Gurlitt's Salzburg property matched one on a looted-art list.

Switzerland's Kunstmuseum Bern, which inherited the collection, posted lists of the Salzburg works and some of the 1,280 others found in Gurlitt's Munich apartment online Thursday.

While some of the Munich works were already known, it was the first look for many at the art Gurlitt kept in the house he owned in Austria. It includes works by Breughel, Monet, Renoir and Picasso.

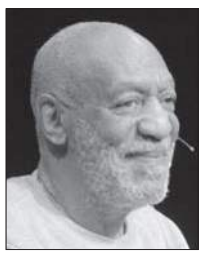
Gurlitt inherited much of the art from his father, who in the 1930s helped the Nazis sell art they considered "degenerate" to buyers outside of Germany for cash. Some of the works—including Impressionist and modern masterpieces—had been seized by the Nazis from museums, while others were stolen or bought for a pittance from Jewish collectors who were forced to sell.

Gurlitt died in May at age 81, designating the Swiss museum as his sole heir.

On Monday, the museum announced its decision to accept the bequest, promising to ensure any Nazi-looted pieces were returned to their rightful heirs.

In an agreement with German authorities, the museum said it would work closely with the government task force already looking into the provenance of the Gurlitt art from Munich. It said it would evaluate the Salzburg works alone, however, and decide within three months which pieces should be turned over to the task force.

Cosby offers refunds for NY show ticket holders


Cosby

TARRYTOWN, New York (AP)—Bill Cosby is still performing at a suburban New York venue next weekend but the embattled comic is offering refunds to ticket holders who don't want to go.

The Journal News reports that Cosby's two Dec. 6 shows at the Tarrytown Music Hall are going on as scheduled.

But ticket holders got an email from the box office Friday offering refunds.

The email said Cosby's management would reimburse patrons who don't want to attend the show.

Cosby shows in some other states have been canceled after women came forward alleging he sexually assaulted them. More than 30 shows remain on his schedule through May 2015.

Cosby has denied the allegations against him.

Madonna's adopted kids meet Malawi's president

AP

US singer Madonna laughs, during her meeting with Malawian President Peter Mutharika, at the State House, in Lillongwe, Malawi, Friday, Nov, 28, 2014.

LILONGWE, Malawi (AP)—The president of Malawi has met Madonna's adopted daughter and son.

President Peter Mutharika thanked the U.S. pop star on Friday for bringing her Malawi-born children Mercy and David back to their birth country.

Friday's meeting was symbolic for Madonna, who had a public falling-out with former President Joyce Banda.

"Thank you for welcoming me here. I was a big fan of your brother. He was very kind to us," Madonna said of Mutharika's older brother Bingu wa Mutharika.

Madonna has been visiting Malawi since 2006. She funds a number of orphanages and schools in the country. On Thursday she helped open a new 50-bed pediatrics ward in the commercial capital, Blantyre, that she helped fund.

Creed frontman Scott Stapp says he's broke

AP

In this Sunday, April 6, 2014, file photo, singer Scott Stapp, of the band Creed, performs solo in concert at Soundstage, in Baltimore.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Creed frontman Scott Stapp says he's broke.

The 41-year-old lead singer of the Grammy-winning band said in a rambling 15-minute-long video posted on his Facebook page Wednesday that he's living in a hotel.

"Right now, I'm living in a Holiday Inn, by the grace of God, because there's been a couple of weeks where I had to live in my truck," he said in the video. "I had no money, not even for gas or food."

Stapp said money has been stolen from his bank account and royalty payments have not been paid to him.

"Eight weeks ago, I began an audit of not only my record company, but my personal finances," he said. "During the course of that audit, a lot of things were uncovered. A lot of money was stolen from me, or royalties not paid, and that's when all hell began to break loose."

Stapp denied he's taking drugs or alcohol and said he is "as sober as can be."

Creed last toured together in 2012. The band was one of the most successful rock acts of the 1990s, selling more than 40 million albums. Creed won the Grammy for best rock song for "With Arms Wide Open" in 2001.

Sober director fears he won't make more films

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Provocative Danish director Lars von Trier says he fears he won't make any more movies since sobering up, because his award-winning films were made while intoxicated.

In his first interview in three years, von Trier told Saturday's edition of Danish daily Politiken that he no longer drinks a bottle of vodka a day or takes "narcotics" that had helped him enter "a parallel world."

Because of sobering up, von Trier says: "I don't know whether I can make more films. And that haunts me."

In 2011, the director of "Nymphomaniac" and "Breaking the Waves" was ejected from the Cannes Film Festival after expressing sympathy with Adolf Hitler. He later said he had been joking, and said he would no longer speak in public.

Antigua's PM names De Niro as its special economic envoy

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (AP)—The prime minister of Antigua & Barbuda has appointed actor Robert De Niro as special economic envoy of the twin-island nation in the eastern Caribbean.

The administration of Gaston Browne said in a statement Saturday that the appointment comes after De Niro signed a memorandum of agreement on Friday for a $250 million hotel investment in Barbuda.

Officials said De Niro and Australian businessman James Packer will help renovate and expand a former five-star luxury resort that closed several years ago.

Browne said he expects the deal to be signed late next month and for construction to begin in the next 12 months.

He said De Niro will help attract more investment and American celebrities to Antigua & Barbuda as special economic envoy.

Give gift of your service to help out older parents

DEAR ABBY: For those who are looking for gift suggestions for older parents, may I offer what my kids do for us? They live far away and usually visit us in the spring and fall.

Before they leave, my daughter scrubs my bathroom shower and the rest of the room, cleans my refrigerator, oven, kitchen cabinets, my carpets—things that are difficult for me to do. While she's inside doing that, my son-in-law is outside trimming trees and bushes, doing general yard cleanup in the spring and raking leaves and disposing of them in the fall.

In addition, during the months BEFORE their visit, my daughter is setting aside and freezing small portions of entrees so we will have future dinners from her meals. She also freezes an assortment of different soups in zip-lock bags, laid flat so they will fit well in my freezer. While they're here, they cook all the meals and do the cleanup. What a wonderful gift!

Even if some families don't cook, they could make up small meals with deli purchases and freeze them for their parents. Nothing could be appreciated more. Instead of buying a useless gift because "We didn't know what to get you—you said you didn't want anything," these are gifts that keep on giving!

TRULY BLESSED IN MONTANA

DEAR TRULY BLESSED: I agree. And you are fortunate to have such caring family members. Please allow me to offer some additional gift suggestions for seniors:

Many individuals on fixed incomes would appreciate a gift basket of goodies such as small cans of tuna, salmon or soup. Include with them crackers, assorted flavors of instant coffee, herbal teas, soup mixes and cookies.

Gift certificates also make welcome gifts: for groceries, haircuts, manicures, dry cleaning, restaurant meals, theater tickets and department stores. And don't forget prepaid calling cards.

Create homemade coupons that can be redeemed for chores such as window washing, painting, replacing air conditioning filters and light bulbs, moving heavy furniture for spring and fall cleaning, and transportation for shopping, doctor's visits, etc.

Because not all seniors drive, bus passes and coupons for senior transportation or taxis can also give the recipient the gift of freedom.

Sweat pants, athletic socks and walking shoes may motivate the sedentary to become more active—which improves circulation and cognition for people of every age.

Stationery, stamps and some felt-tipped pens make handy gifts that can be used throughout the year. And so do large-print address books with the information already transferred from the recipients' records.

And please, don't forget that the holiday season can be a depressing time for people who are alone. I am often asked for gift ideas for the person "who already has everything." My answer: The greatest gift a person can give is the gift of yourSELF. If you know someone who could use an outing, offer the most meaningful gift of all—an invitation to share a meal with you or your family.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

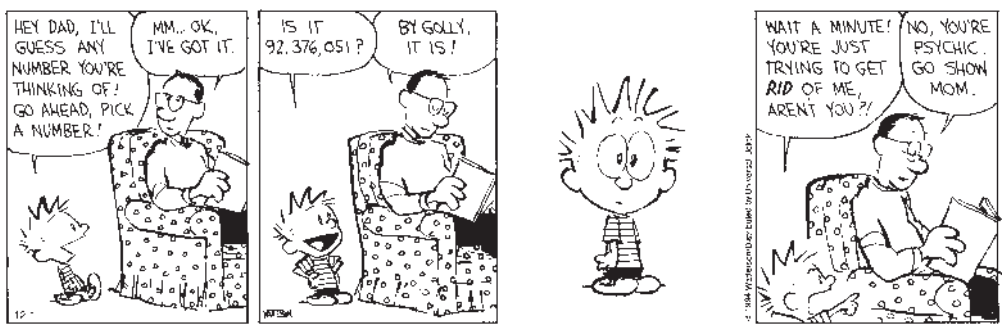
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY DAD, I'LL GUESS ANY NUMBER YOU'RE THINKING OF! GO AHEAD, PICK A NUMBER!
MM... OK, I'VE GOT IT.
IS IT 92,376,051?
BY GOLLY, IT IS!
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO GET RID OF ME, AREN'T YOU?!
NO, YOU'RE PSYCHIC. GO SHOW MOM.

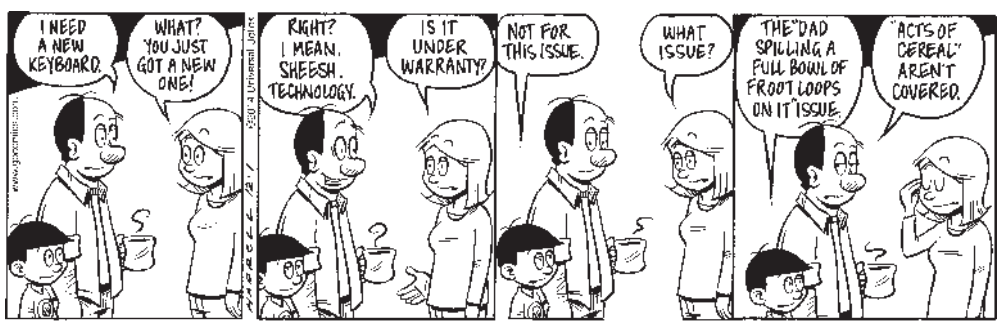
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

SOMETIMES WINTER CAN SEEM GRAY, DULL, LIFELESS, COLD AND UNFORGIVING
BUT THEN ALONG COMES CHRISTMAS
AND ALONG COMES JON
A LITTLE HELP...

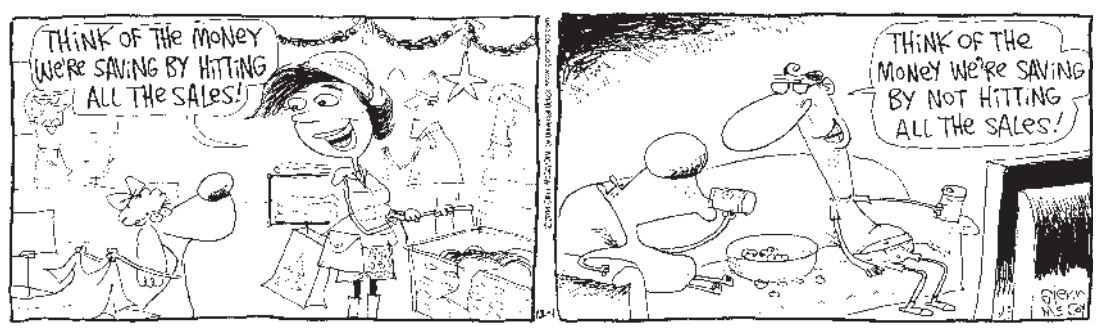
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I NEED A NEW KEYBOARD.
WHAT? YOU JUST GOT A NEW ONE!
RIGHT? I MEAN, SHEESH. TECHNOLOGY.
IS IT UNDER WARRANTY?
NOT FOR THIS ISSUE.
WHAT ISSUE?
THE "DAD SPILLING A FULL BOWL OF FROOT LOOPS ON IT" ISSUE.
"ACTS OF CEREAL" AREN'T COVERED.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

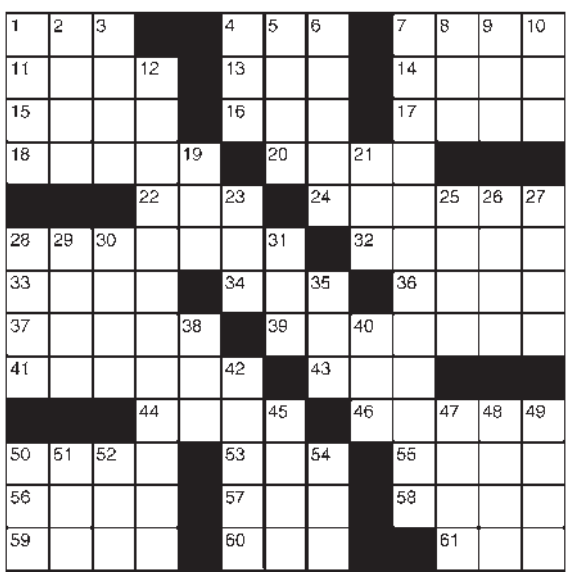
ACROSS
1 Sphere
4 Lingerie piece
7 Eden denizen
11 Union payment
13 Have a bug
14 Loosen
15 Jacob's brother
16 Sticky stuff
17 Pack down
18 Baffle
20 Vegan staple
22 Fellows
24 Opposite of 22-Across, in France
28 One-time 007 portrayer George
32 Pass, as a law
33 Eastern potentate
34 Visored headgear
36 Enticement
37 Ballroom favorite
39 Got smarter
41 Collar stiffener
43 Tiny legume
44 Greek vowels
46 Use
50 Pinnacle
53 Siegfried's partner
55 Differently
56 French restaurant word
57 Mobile device, usually
58 Unmatched
59 Relaxation
60 Sturdy tree
61 "A mouse!"

DOWN
1 Rhyming tributes
2 Oxidation
3 Suitor
4 Suitcase
5 Urban disturbance
6 Unfriendly
7 1955 Roger Williams hit
8 "CSI" evidence
9 Navy bigwig (Abbr.)
10 Swab
12 1972 Seals & Crofts hit
19 Corral
21 Doctor's due
23 Fallon's network
25 Tennyson poem
26 Beige
27 Dance lesson
28 Not so much
29 Latin 101 verb
30 Coors brand
31 Deviate off course
35 Domino spot
38 Performance
40 Vast expanse
42 Silent Marx brother
45 Pop
47 Lotion additive
48 Capri, e.g.
49 Onion's kin
50 Top card
51 Half a dance
52 — amis
54 Tibetan critter

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	A	C	E	R		B	A	T		O	D	E
A	W	A	R	E		E	G	O		N	O	N
S	F	P	I	A		C	A	P	S	I	Z	E
		R	E	C	T	O	R		P	O	E	M
A	L	I		T	O	M		T	I	N	N	Y
P	A	C	K		N	E	V	E	R			
T	W	E	N	T	Y		A	C	A	C	I	A
			C	A	S	E	L		L	A	S	S
M	A	D	A	M		V	I	A		P	O	P
A	G	E	D		F	I	D	G	E	T		
C	A	P	S	T	A	N		A	B	U	S	E
R	I	O		A	R	O		M	A	R	E	S
G	N	T		B	E	E		A	N	E	N	T

Friday's answer 12-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Silverman, 44; Nestor Carbonell, 47; Bette Midler, 69; Woody Allen, 79.

Happy Birthday: Pay closer attention to your home, family and domestic plans. It's important to stabilize your situation and pin down any loose ends that may create a problem for you in the future. You can have an outstanding year as long as you take advantage of opportunities and are willing to make the changes required to get the highest returns. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 28, 32, 37, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Recognize what you need to focus on and make a point of organizing your time to reach your professional year-end deadlines. Self-improvement will pay off and lead to compliments and welcome reunions with someone you miss. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't expect things to be easy. Do the work required to reach your goals, and refuse to let anyone interfere. You don't have to spend a lot to make a good impression. Do your best, and that should suffice. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let the changes you are facing stifle your performance. You've got a better foothold than you realize, so you should leap into action to make your dreams come true. Your ability to take charge and move forward will be envied. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotional discord can be expected if you don't face a challenge optimistically. Reach out and collaborate and you will find a worthwhile solution. Treat yourself to something that makes you feel good, like a new outfit or hairstyle. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Bargain-hunting will pay off. Your outgoing approach will draw positive attention. A change is heading your way, and socializing or getting together with someone you love will lead to an interesting development. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Proceed with caution. You may want to make domestic changes, but make sure you have the approval of everyone who will be affected by the choices you make. Do your best to stick to a budget and accommodate the ones you love. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Communicate with a friend, neighbor or relative who can give you a different view of your current personal situation. Problems at home will escalate if you don't make your voice heard. Play the role of mediator with your roommates. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Visiting a friend or getting involved in your community will brighten your day. Your unique approach to the way you live will set an example for someone looking for advice. A positive change in the way you earn your living is within reach. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Spice up your life and look for adventure. Whether you learn something new or travel to a destination you've never been before, an open mind will lead to new friendships and shared information. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll face opposition if you make sudden changes. Learn from past experience and share your intentions before you get underway. A deal you are being offered will have hidden costs. Don't commit to anything without knowing the bottom line. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your income will get a boost if you look into alternative ways to market what you have to offer. A partnership will turn out to be beneficial. Don't limit what you can do because you fear failure. Give it your best shot. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't believe everything you hear. You can learn from observing how others react to what you do. Concentrate on being disciplined when pursuing your goals or taking care of your responsibilities and you will avoid complaints. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, entertaining and inspiring. You are high-spirited and adventuresome.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2			7	3	5		
7	5						9	
		3			1			2
			1	2		3		8
4								6
1		9		8	4			
2			7			6		
	7						8	4
		6	8	9			5	

Difficulty Level ★ 12/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	7	8	3	1	6	9	5
6	3	5	2	9	7	8	4	1
8	1	9	5	4	6	3	7	2
3	9	6	7	1	5	2	8	4
7	2	1	6	8	4	5	3	9
5	8	4	3	2	9	7	1	6
9	5	2	1	7	3	4	6	8
1	7	8	4	6	2	9	5	3
4	6	3	9	5	8	1	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OSCAR DE LA RENTA (1932-2014) **Solution: 11 letters**

N	S	S	S	E	S	S	A	L	G	N	U	S	A	S
E	E	D	T	T	S	K	I	R	T	S	E	A	N	R
T	S	M	R	L	I	I	E	T	(B)	E	V	W	A	M
U	S	U	R	A	E	F	O	T	A	(O)	O	A	C	O
C	E	T	O	A	H	B	I	C	C	G	(L)	R	A	I
I	R	A	N	L	C	L	R	A	N	H	S	(D)	T	S
T	D	L	E	A	B	E	E	I	L	A	E	S	N	E
C	O	E	L	D	P	L	M	G	D	L	R	S	U	S
E	M	B	O	U	E	O	U	S	N	A	O	F	P	G
N	I	A	B	G	D	S	D	E	T	E	L	T	A	A
N	N	L	A	O	I	Y	I	T	F	I	X	N	M	B
O	I	N	T	C	O	W	E	G	A	A	N	E	A	D
C	C	N	O	W	E	D	D	I	N	G	B	K	L	N
E	A	N	N	E	T	T	E	A	M	E	L	I	Z	A
S	N	R	S	E	C	N	A	R	G	A	R	F	O	H

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Alex, Amal, Annette, Awards, Belts, Blouse, Blue, Bold, Bolen, Bridal, Carmen, Connecticut, Designer, Dominican, Dresses, Elegance, Eliza, Engelhard, Fabio, Fiallo, Fits, Fragrances, Francoise, Gowns, Handbags, Icon, Kent, Knits, Label, Love, Moises, Pants, Punta Cana, Republic, Santo Domingo, Sketches, Skirts, Sunglasses, Tags, Team, Wedding

Last Friday's Answer: Electronics

Purchase **WONDERWORD** books in time for the holidays!
Visit wonderword.universaluclick.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Photo Shop Manager / Photographer: $6.05/hr. At least three years of photo shop management experience, and professional photography, film and digital photo development and processing experience in a photo shop required.

(1) Photo Shop Technician / Photographer: $6.05/hr. At least three years of professional photography, film and digital photo development and processing experience in a photo shop required. Email resume to island7@hanmisaipan.com.

---

1 Supervisor: $6.05/hr. College degree and at least 3 years' experience as a supervisor in a grocery store required. Email resume to dolim@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Operations Manager: $6.50/hr. At least three years of managerial experience in auto repair shop operations required. Email resume to grace@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Restaurant Manager (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years' managerial experience in a restaurant specializing in Korean cuisine required.

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years' experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Manager: $6.05/hr. 3 years' experience required.

1 Maintenance and Repair Worker, General: $6.05/hr. 3 years' experience required. Email resume to sunyoung@hanmisaipan.com.

R.E.A.L. International Cop. Is looking for 10-Masons, 10-Carpenters, 1-Welder, 1-Electrician, 2-Painters & 1-Plumber. Email resume to remypamintuan@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR RENT

Looking for House, Apt, and Motel near Garapan area for long term lease. Call Zheng at 287-7676

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
HYUN CORPORATION
(1) ACCOUNTANT AND OFFICE MANAGER

Minimum of 5 years' experience in accounting and office management. Knowledgeable on English, Korean and Chinese language. Must be able to provide their own transportation and work flexible hours.

Interested applicants, please send resume to sylviacnmi@gmail.com

www.saipantribune.com

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

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Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security exduded**

FEATURES:
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- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8.

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG SKY CHEFS is looking for to the following positions:

- **CSC-Delivery Driver**
- **PSS-Delivery Driver**
- **Sanitation Worker**

Requirements: Superior Court and District/Federal Court Police Clearance and Health Certificate. Applications are available at the Main Office located at the airport road, situated between American Red Cross Office and Historic Preservation Office.
No Phone Calls Please

Kanoa Resort Saipan

(1) DIRECTOR OF FOOD & BEVERAGE

Qualifications: A degree in hotel and restaurant management is preferred or minimum of 4 years work experience in a hotel food and beverage environment. Experience with and good understanding of financial and operational management of a hotel food and beverage operation. Excellent customer service skills and a passion for the hospitality industry. Stable work history and demonstrated achievement in progressively more responsible positions in hotel food and beverage operations along with strong, supportive employment references. Knowledgeable of safe sanitary procedures and health codes, overall compliance of all health regulations for food preparation. Conducts training on employees relating to the F&B Operation. Proven ability to effectively build a team environment and makes decisions in a fast paced environment. Proficient with computer software applications. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than December 01, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Kanoa Resort Saipan

(1) FOOD AND BEVERAGE WAIT STAFF

Qualifications: High School diploma/GED preferred. At least a few months of training in serving and hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to speak, read and write in Chinese. Must be able to work flexible hours including nights, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than December 02, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Manager, Electronic Gaming (1)

Position Summary: Plan, direct and co-ordinate the operations of a business, division, department or operating unit of Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. Plan and maintain systems and procedures for operating efficiency. Manage staff for optimum performance. Ensure compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws and adherence to and maintenance of policy of confidentiality within the gaming operation; and to produce maximum revenue levels.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent and a certificate in gaming operations or management plus 15 years of successful work experience in one or more gaming operations, 7 years of which must be as a gaming manager; must have current management experience in an electronic gaming operations running slot machines and electronic gaming machines; ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form and the ability to handle multiple tasks; demonstrated experience and ability to manage all games and must be computer literate. Knowledge and experience in strategic planning; marketing, brand reinforcement; networking, stakeholder communication; financial management, forecasting, budgeting; team building and development; staff management, mentoring and motivation; organizational, coordination and time management; complete all documentation accurately in accordance with standards and applicable local and federal laws. Ability to work any shift or hours; must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent and leadership skills. Ability to work any shift or hours.

Interested applicants may submit their resume
by email to: hr@clubcsaipan.com.
Background check maybe required before employment.
Deadline for submission of resume is on Friday, December 5, 2014.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2015

Opening date: November 17, 2014 Closing date: December 5, 2014

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) Staff Engineer (Saipan)
(1) Executive/Board Secretary

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than 4:30 p.m., December 5, 2014.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA HR Administrator Ms. Rita Omar, by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

WHATZIT Solution: Bowled over

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find today's solution in classified section

Patriots vs Packers could be Super Bowl preview

FOXBOROUGH (AP)— New England at Green Bay features the two best teams with the most potent offenses in the NFL at the moment.

It's being billed in some quarters as a Super Bowl preview and, if so, watch how Pats coach Bill Belichick and Packers counterpart Mike McCarthy react to each other's moves. If nothing else, this meeting figures to be an important test of their wills.

Belichick is the NFL's version of a mad scientist, a strategist who's willing to overhaul his game plan from week to week, in part because he has quarterback Tom Brady to anchor the offense and enough mix-and-match defenders to play a variety of schemes.

McCarthy, too, has proved plenty adaptable during his nine seasons in charge at Green Bay. But his coaching philosophy was formed early in his career, and with Aaron Rodgers, an equally smart, adaptable and accurate quarterback in his corner, he's more likely to take a nip-and-tuck approach to change rather than a face-lift.

McCarthy learned the virtue of patience nearly 30 years ago, as a skilled but undersized Pittsburgh prep star looking to play tight end in college. He wound up at tiny Baker University (enrollment: 3,200 students) outside of Kansas City, a football powerhouse in NAIA play. What McCarthy didn't know at the time was that the Wildcats' dominance was built on an option running game.

"It could be third-and-15, third-and-16, third-and-whatever and we'd almost always run. Poor Mike," said Scott Rampy, who played quarterback at Baker during McCarthy's time there and remains a good friend. "I'm pretty sure he wound up blocking a lot more than he ever imagined."

"That's not what they told me before I went there," McCarthy recalled with a chuckle Wednesday. "That's good recruiting."

It turned out to be, though, since in addition to patience, Baker is where McCarthy first became a student of the game.

He learned the value of preparation from the late Charlie Richard, a Hall of Fame coach. But his first real hands-on experience came when then-assistant Dan Harris turned over responsibility for the line calls to McCarthy in his senior year.

"That was the first sign of his coaching potential," Harris said. "He began to analyze the game in more detail."

Both Harris and Rampy said McCarthy was an instant hit at Baker, regaling the mostly small-town recruits with tales of the big city, showing the kind of leadership that got him elected captain his last two seasons. The Wildcats finished second and fourth in the NAIA playoffs, but those around him sensed McCarthy's football days were just beginning.

"After graduation, we worked to get Mike a graduate assistantship in college and the rest," Harris said, "is history."

Not quite. McCarthy went from Baker to Fort Hays State and coached linebackers there. After two years seeing the game from the other side of the ball, he went back on offense at Pitt under coach Mike Gottfried and quarterback guru Paul Hackett. Stints as an NFL assistant in Kansas City, Green Bay, New Orleans and San Francisco followed before McCarthy returned to Green Bay as the boss in 2006.

Given the chance to draw up his own game plans, McCarthy went back to his Baker roots.

"The way Charlie Richard went about a football game ... one thing you knew when you stepped on a field, you were extremely confident," McCarthy said. "You felt like you were better prepared than your opponent. Charlie was an aggressive, offensive play-caller, because not only did we have our bread-and-butter option package, there were always deceptions and big-play opportunities that he would create."

Preparing for a Belichick-coached team is particularly tricky, as New England's seven straight wins attest. The three-time Super Bowl winner found a way to disarm such luminaries as Denver's Peyton Manning and Indianapolis' Andrew Luck during the run, and would love to shut down Rodgers for the trifecta.

Belichick won both previous meetings and while he and McCarthy approach the game differently, there are some important similarities.

Asked to compare the two quarterbacks early in the week, Belichick replied tersely, "They both wear No. 12," before ending his session with the media.

Faced with the same question, McCarthy replied "They're both from California," and he, too, called it a day.

New England Patriots strong safety Patrick Chung (23) breaks up a pass in the end zone intended for Detroit Lions tight end Joseph Fauria (80) in the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, in Foxborough, Mass.

Donaldson says Toronto has elements to win

TORONTO (AP)—Josh Donaldson has good memories of playing in Toronto. He made his major league debut there in 2010, striking out as a pinch-hitter. The following day he smacked a game-winning, two-run homer for his first career hit.

More memories are on the way. Next season, Toronto is his big league home.

The Blue Jays acquired Donaldson from the Oakland Athletics on Friday night for infielder Brett Lawrie, left-hander Sean Nolin, right-hander Kendall Graveman and minor league shortstop Franklin Barreto.

"Toronto is a great place, a great city," the All-Star third baseman said during a conference call Saturday morning. "Every time I've been there it's been very beautiful."

Now, Donaldson will try to see what he can do about the ballpark. The Blue Jays went 83-79 last season and finished out of the playoffs for a 21st straight year, the longest active drought in baseball.

"I definitely think the elements are there to win," he said.

Donaldson is the second major acquisition of the winter for the Blue Jays, who signed catcher Russell Martin to a five-year, $82 million deal on Nov. 18.

Donaldson said he's excited by what he and Martin might bring to a lineup that already boasts shortstop Jose Reyes in the leadoff spot and sluggers Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion in the heart of the order.

"You start looking at the capability of this lineup and the potential that it brings," Donaldson said. "I'm going to venture to say there's probably not going to be another lineup as potent as this in major league baseball."

The 28-year-old Donaldson is sure-handed at third base. He hit .255 with 29 home runs and 98 RBIs in 158 games last season. In four seasons, all with Oakland, he has a .268 average with 63 home runs and 228 RBIs in 405 games.

He expects his power numbers to rise in hitter-friendly Toronto, saying he figures he lost at least 14 home runs last season to Oakland's spacious outfield.

Before he was called up to the A's in April, 2010, Donaldson was participating in a fantasy baseball league with several minor league teammates at Triple-A Sacramento.

"I remember I had about three of four Blue Jays in my lineup and then I was catching (against them) the next day," Donaldson recalled. "I was like `This can't happen anymore.'"

Donaldson was at home in Alabama on Friday night when he found out he'd become a Blue Jay himself.

"I was up in my man cave playing some old school Mortal Kombat and watching The Golf Channel at the same time," Donaldson said. "I looked down and my phone just started exploding. I decided to check it out. The first text I see is `Blue Jays?' I was like `Yup, I just got traded.'"

Less than 24 hours later, Donaldson said he was "still a little shocked" by the deal, but also finding new things to look forward to.

"Somebody on Twitter had put me in one of those Toronto Blue Jays uniforms, the all whites," he said. "I tell you what, those uniforms are pretty sexy."

More seeds for a global tour in golf

The PGA Tour has small circuits in Latin America, Canada and China. Commissioner Tim Finchem spoke in 2010 about golf heading toward a "world tour," even though he wasn't sure what it would look like or when it would all come together.

It's worth paying attention to the activity of players over the last month.

Brandt Snedeker was in Japan for the Bridgestone Open. Jordan Spieth was in Japan last week at the Dunlop Phoenix, and he's at the Australian Open this week. Webb Simpson was in Japan. Jason Dufner went to Thailand.

Finchem wants to see golf get through the 2016 Olympics—and the schedule problems that will present—before looking too far ahead.

"We need at least two and maybe three years of looking at the schedule in this environment with the wraparound," he said earlier this month in Shanghai. "We need that experience before we start tinkering. In terms of fundamental schedule, we're at least another year away from starting to think about that."

But when asked about a world tour, Finchem made it sound as though the three satellite tours could be part of a larger, global picture.

"I think what we're going to do—and are doing—is watching carefully not just this tour in China, but also South America and Canada," he said. "And we're spending more time evaluating the other core tours - the Asian Tour, Australia, South Africa - understanding more about co-sanctioning between Europe and some of these other tours. We're just asking ourselves, overall, what's the best mix?"

"Those two things dovetail," he said. "We need to get a better sense of what the Olympics are going to do on the weeks it's played and the weeks around it. And then that kind of feeds into the world schedule."

Finchem said it was a "possibility" of co-sanctioning an event in Australia, though it didn't sound as if the PGA Tour was headed in that direction.

Australia now has four big events on world schedule—the Masters, Open and PGA, along with Perth on the European Tour. This week in Sydney features Nos. 1 and 2 in the world with Rory McIlroy and Adam Scott, along with Spieth.

"We've got more big events around the world that are linked to the PGA Tour," Scott said. "I think the ball is really in their court as to what direction we want to go. It certainly has got the power to dictate to tournaments when they are and where they are. ... If I was the Australian Open or one of the other tournaments, I'd be knocking on Tim Finchem's door and trying to make it a World Golf Championship."

Love leads Cavaliers over Pacers, 109-97

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kevin Love scored a season-high 28 points, Kyrie Irving added 24 and the Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Indiana Pacers 109-97 on Saturday night.

LeBron James added 19 points as Cleveland won its third straight game after losing four in a row and moved its record to 8-7. The Cavaliers have won the three games by an average of 23.3 points.

Love, who came into the game averaging 16.5 points, scored 16 in the first quarter. He made his first five shots, including two 3-pointers. Love, who also had 10 rebounds, was 9 for 13 from the field.

Irving added a season-high 10 rebounds and had five assists.

The Cavaliers built a 19-point lead in the first quarter, but the Pacers chipped away and trailed 52-49 at halftime. Cleveland regained control in the third, as James, who had eight points at the half, scored 11 in the quarter. The lead reached 20 points in the fourth quarter.

David West led Indiana with 14 points.

James appeared to injure his left wrist after being knocked to the floor while scoring in the lane in the third quarter but remained in the game.

James' trickery brought the crowd to its feet in the opening period. After taking a pass from Shawn Marion, he motioned the veteran to run the baseline for a pass. Instead, he fired a no-look pass under the basket to Irving, who scored on a layup.

James stole the ball on Indiana's next possession and drove in for a dunk that to put Cleveland ahead 22-6, forcing Indiana coach Frank Vogel to use his second timeout in the first 6:26.

The lead reached 27-8, but the Pacers went on a 13-0 run to get back in the game.

Cleveland led 29-21 after one quarter and built the lead to double figures again, but Luis Scola scored six points and West hit two jumpers to help Indiana cut the lead to three at halftime.

Love finished the half with 22 points, one shy of his season high. He hit a jumper and two free throws while Irving knocked down a 3-pointer as Cleveland built the lead to 67-54.

Love scored 42 points with 16 rebounds in his last game against the Pacers while playing for Minnesota last season.

Both teams played without their starting center. Indiana's Roy Hibbert missed his fourth game in a row with a sprained left ankle while Anderson Varejao sat out with a rib contusion. Tristan Thompson replaced Varejao, making his first start of the season. He scored 13 points and had 11 rebounds in 38 minutes.

Solomon Hill added 13 for the Pacers, who are 6-4 since starting the season 1-6.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Kevin Love, center, drives between Indiana Pacers' Solomon Hill, left, and Ian Mahinmi during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers defeated the Pacers, 109-97.

Rockets 117, Bucks 103

In Milwaukee, James Harden had 19 of his game-high 34 points in the decisive third quarter and the Houston Rockets beat the Milwaukee Bucks 117-103 on Saturday night.

Rookie Jabari Parker scored 19 points and Ersan Ilyasova added 18 for Milwaukee, which had its three-game winning streak snapped.

Harden and Bucks center Larry Sanders jostled near center court with 3:19 left in the game with Houston leading handily. Harden had been called for an offensive foul, and was holding the ball walking down the court when Giannis Antetokounmpo slapped him on the rear and knocked the ball away.

Harden gave a slight shove with his left hand to the 19-year-old Bucks player, and Sanders ran up to Harden, and both players grabbed each other's arms. Harden, Sanders and Antetokounmpo all were given technical fouls after the referees reviewed the video.

About a minute earlier, Harden had thrown an elbow that hit Antetokounmpo in the shoulder. Sanders got involved and argued vehemently with Harden.

When Sandears scored on a dunk on the Bucks next possession, he stared at Harden and chest bumped Antetokounmpo.

The game was no longer in doubt when the theatrics occurred, and Harden was the key player in Houston's seventh road win in eight games this year.

After playing 38 minutes Friday night, Harden scored 17 of the Rockets final 21 points in the third quarter as Houston extended a seven-point halftime lead to 85-72 going into the fourth quarter. Milwaukee never got within single digits in the fourth.

Wizards 83, Pelicans 80

In Washington, Marcin Gortat had a season high 24 points and 13 rebounds, Bradley Beal scored 12 points and the Washington Wizards beat the New Orleans Pelicans 83-80 on Saturday night.

The Wizards trailed only once — when Anthony Davis, who led New Orleans with 30 points, dunked to give the Pelicans a 78-77 lead with 3:48 remaining.

Paul Pierce hit a layup and a 3-pointer, and Washington led 81-77 with 2:13 to play.

Tyreke Evans missed a 3-point attempt that would have tied the score with 1.7 seconds to play.

Gortat was 5 for 7 from the field in the third quarter as the Wizards, who never trailed, built a 65-57 lead after three.

New Orleans has lost a season-high three straight. Davis had 13 rebounds, but the NBA blocked shot leader, had none for the first time in 15 games this season.

The Pelicans had a season-low 12 assists and lost on consecutive nights. In their first three back-to-backs this season they had lost the first and won the second game.

Mavericks 110, 76ers 103

In Philadelhia, Tyson Chandler had 20 points and 13 rebounds to help Dallas beat Philadelphia, sending the 76ers to a franchise-record 16th straight loss to start the season.

Michael Carter-Williams had a triple-double with 18 points, 16 assists and 10 rebounds for the 76ers, who eclipsed the 1972-73 club that began 0-15 on the way to setting an 82-game NBA record for fewest victories at 9-73. Philadelphia became the fifth team in league history to open with at least 16 straight losses, joining the 1994-95 Clippers (0-16), 1998-99 Clippers (0-17), 1988-89 Heat (0-17) and the 2009-10 Nets (0-18).

The 76ers will try again for its first win on Monday when they host the defending champion Spurs. If they lose to San Antonio, Philadelphia could equal the NBA record for defeats to begin a season on Wednesday at Minnesota and could potentially set an NBA record on Friday at home versus Oklahoma City.

Hawks 105, Hornets 75

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 18 points, Mike Scott added 14 and Atlanta handed Charlotte a ninth straight loss.

Dennis Schroder and Kyle Korver each finished with 12 points for Atlanta (9-6), which has won two straight and four of five.

The Hornets (4-14) trailed by 20 early in the second quarter, by 32 late in the second and were down by 44 early in the third.

Al Jefferson was the only Hornet in double figures before reserve guard P.J. Hairston scored his 10th point early in the fourth.

Hairston led Charlotte with 15 points. Hornets guard Gerald Henderson, who had 14 points, was the only starter for either team to play in the fourth quarter.

Clippers 112, Jazz 96

In Salt Lake City, Blake Griffin scored 28 points and Chris Paul added 17 points and 10 assists to help Los Angeles beat Utah and post their fourth straight win.

Jamal Crawford tallied 22 points and DeAndre Jordan grabbed 12 rebounds as the Clippers (11-5) closed a seven-game trip that covered over 7,200 miles with a 6-1 record.

Gordon Hayward scored 30 points and Derrick Favors had 19 for the Jazz (5-12), who have lost a season-high five games in a row.

J.J. Redick had 13 points as the Clippers marked 12 consecutive victories over the Jazz with 56 percent shooting.

The Clippers now boast an NBA-best 5-0 record in the second half of back-to-back games.

SIDEBAR

Jordan's big offseason free agent signing is a mess

CHARLOTTE (AP)—While the NBA world continues to dissect what's wrong with the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Charlotte Hornets are quietly the biggest disappointment in the Eastern Conference.

Charlotte is 4-12. They've lost seven in a row, and nine out of their last 10.

The most worrying part of their slow start is what's going on with Lance Stephenson. The Hornets signed Stephenson to a three-year, $27-million contract this summer. He was supposed to give the team some much-needed wing scoring and bolster a defensive unit that was already ranked 5th in 2013. Hornets owner Michael Jordan even described him as a LeBron-stopper in a preseason interview.

Stephenson is a mess right now. He's averaging fewer than 10 points per game and shooting an abysmal 37% from the field (including 20% from 3-point range). One NBA scout called him out of shape.

In Wednesday's loss to the Blazers, he was benched for the entire fourth quarter. After the game, coach Steve Clifford said he's not a star player:

"To be fair, one of the things that's made it more difficult for him is that he came here and people proclaimed him as the next superstar. He's not a star. He's a guy that has talent to become a star. To be a star in this league, you have to do it over years."

Stephenson has taken the high road in the media, saying it's up to him to work himself back into the lineup (via Charlotte Observer):

"Hey it's the coach's decision. If he doesn't play me in the fourth I'm just going to continue to work hard and do what it takes to win. Other than that I think I'm good. We just need to work harder."

To make matters worse, there's now a report that Stephenson was the reason for Roy Hibbert's perplexing late-season slump last year in Indiana.

Charlotte's big problem has been on defense. They were 5th in the NBA in defensive efficiency last year, but have fallen to 21st this year.

Stephenson was supposed to elevate the Hornets from a bottom-tier playoff team to a real contender in the East. Unless they get it together soon, they could find themselves in the seven or eight seed again this year.

Pangilinan rules Smoke Pub Turkey Shoot

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Senen Pangilinan bested 15 other veteran pool players to rule the 1st Smoke Pub Turkey Shoot 2014 held last week at the Smoke Pub Sports Bar in Garapan.

Pangilinan went undefeated in the double elimination tournament to automatically clinch the first finals berth and the twice-to-beat advantage that goes with it.

He each scored wins over Simon Kapileo, Nolan Cultura, Rico Montano, and Juancho Mendoza and waited for his opponent as the eigth other players battled their way to the finals in the loser's bracket.

Rolly Villanueva, who lost to Montano in the first round of elimination, had to go through the longer route in order to clinch the second finals berth. He scored five straight wins over Joseph Achas, Chester Cuento, Brian Nelvis and Cultura, respectively, then defeated Mendoza in the semifinals to earn the right of facing Pangilinan in the title match.

Villanueva continued with his hot streak and downed Pangilinan in the first game to force a you-or-me showdown.

Pangilinan, however, dug deep from his bag of tricks to foil Villanueva's upset bid as he dispatched his opponent in the rubber match to bring home the $135 top prize, turkey, and trophy. Villanueva settled for the $75 cash prize along with a turkey and trophy. Mendoza also won a turkey and trophy plus $35.

Randy Sablan, Ray Matsunaga, Roman Rodriguez, Erwin Gomez, Mark Butac, Patrick Cepeda and Jerry Soriano are the other players who participated in the one-day tournament backed by Smoke Pub and Pacific Amusement Inc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senen Pangilinan, center, poses with, from left, runner-up Rolly Villanueva, Smoke Pubower Mary Labadan, third placer Juancho Mendoza, and Chester Cuento for a group photo at the conclusion of the 1st Smoke Pub Turkey Shoot 2014 held last week at the Smoke Pub Sports Bar in Garapan.

Saipan Little League sets 3 important dates

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan Little League Board Inc. is reminding all members to mark three important dates before the 2015 season opens next month.

The SLLBI, headed by its president Benjamin Jones Jr., held a meeting on Saturday at McDonald's Chalan Laulau and discussed details of next month's opening, including the three crucial dates for the league.

The SLLBI wants all of its members to mark Dec. 3 so they could attend the final general membership meeting at 5:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium pavilion. Jones is requesting all managers or their respective representatives to attend the meeting since failure to do so will mean that their team will be dropped from the Little League program.

"I encourage all managers to attend the meeting. If you're not present or failed to attend the final meeting before the season starts, your team will be cut off from the program. I am giving emphasis on a no show, no team policy," said Jones.

The SLLBI will then hold an umpires meeting on Dec. 5 at 6pm with the venue yet to be confirmed. The association will meet with the umpires to make sure all the Little League rules are in place and properly followed for a smooth flow of the games.

The SLLBI board has also reserved Dec. 6 as player registration day and they would assist managers and coaches in registering their players.

"All documents and necessary paperwork must be turned in on that day to give player agent Piding Tenorio and the SLLBI board time to prepare them before the season opens," Jones added.

They will receive copies of the team rosters and other necessary documents that will prove the player's age from 9am to 12nn at the Ada Gym pavilion.

The SLLBI is aiming to open the season with one Big League game on Jan. 15.

For more information, call Tenorio at 285-1024 or A.J. Murig a 989-0640.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Falcons pitcher catches a throw from home plate during a playoff game in the 2014 season of the Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. The league's new season will open next month.

MP

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Kautong's penalty kick. The play started with Perez on a breakaway, while John Diego Masga and John Taisacan tried to catch up on defense. The two defenders along with Aninzo collapsed on Perez and all four fell on the ground, while the ball was lost, but recovered by Se Yong Kim and kicked it into the goal. However, the shot was nullified, as Taisacan was already charged with the foul for the collision. Omengkar took the penalty kick, as Perez left the pitch limping and the former gave Tan Holdings its second goal.

Omengkar's shot came nine minutes after MP United also scored off a penalty kick in the 25th minute. Unsa drained the penalty kick off Mii Tekopua's foul on Joyner. Joyner was going for a header after a corner kick from Daniel Lim when Tekopua was caught pushing the former.

The physical plays continued in the remaining minutes of the first half and Tan Holdings went on to keep the shaky lead, as MP United failed to cash in on two free kicks and could not find its offensive tempo yet.

The rhythm came in the second half after a long pep talk with coach Norman Del Rosario at halftime, as the entire team went out of the complex.

"I told them that we've been to a lot of situation like this and we managed to overcome the deficit. I told them to consider the deficit as a challenge to work harder and play more as a team. They responded and showed so much mental toughness out there," Del Rosario said.

Del Rosario added that in the first half when Tan Holdings kept attacking, his players were constantly looking at him at the bench.

"After Tan Holdings scored its second goal and my players looked at me I gave them the nod to tell them it's ok. We just have to stay compose and execute the game plan," Del Rosario said.

MP United followed the game plan early in the second half with Unsa breaking away from three defenders and kicking the ball, which headed toward the right corner and rolled past the hands of Tan Holdings goalkeeper Joshua Hark Galarion in the 48th minute for the second deadlock in the exciting finale.

Joyner then shattered the standoff two minutes later with his looping shot as he got away from his much shorter defender—Mareko Tekopua—with a hop-skip and unloaded his first goal. Joyner made it two in a row, as he used his height advantage anew to convert a header off a pass from Kennedy Izuka in the 68th minute to give MP United more cushion, 4-2.

Now suddenly down by two, but definitely not out, Tan Holdings kept its title bid alive when Perez scored his second goal—off a free kick in the 78th—with the ball going over three MP defenders and looping into the top right post with Aninzo failing to catch it.

Tan Holdings then had two chances to force a tie, but both Emmanuel Aniana and Perez were not in proper position when they went for the headers and missed. The two Tan Holdings FC attempts came in the last 10 minutes, while MP United worked the ball around to run down the clock and preserve the lead and the win.

SISTER

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the tournament after Conatsu prevailed in their semis match last Saturday at Fiesta Court 1, 6-3, 6-1.

Ojima settled for the battle for third place with Gregoire, who completed the Top 3 after an 8-2 win over the former yesterday at Kanoa Resort Court 1. Tuttle and Sablan won the other consolation games against Epley, 8-3, and Imai, 9-7.

Meanwhile, Tania Tan notched the girls U14 crown that slipped away from her hands last year after a 6-1, 6-3 win over Malika Miyawaki in yesterday's finale at Fiesta Court 2.

Tan, who bowed to Julia Ishikawa in the 2013 title match, 2-6, 1-6, advanced to the finals anew after eliminating Coume Kaga, 6-2, 6-0, and Mimi Sakano, 6-1, 6-2, in the upper half of the draw. In the lower half, Miyawaki booted out Asia Raulerson, 6-1, 6-0, and Ami Tsukagoshi, 6-3, 6-3.

Tsukagoshi rounded out the Top 3 after downing Sakano in the third place match, 8-4, while Conatu Kaga finished fifth with her 8-3 victory over Grace Choi. Tsukagoshi made it to the semis after a 6-1, 6-0 triumph over Conatu Kaga, while Sakano bagged a Final Four berth following a 6-1, 6-1 win against Choi.

Meanwhile, results in the boys singles and girls and boys doubles will be reported later this week

SBC

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mark.

Taga won 10 of the 30 games at stake against CBC on Friday and then added six more as the former currently trails Shirley's by three in the 15 games they played last Saturday.

Three points are awarded to a team that wins a match in two games, while 2 points are given to the winning squad and one to its opponent if the match goes to three.

CBC got off to a hot start against Taga as the mixed AB pair of Andreau Galvez and Nicole Malasarte scored an easy 21-5, 21-10 win over Celso Agui and Cristy Villaflor while the mixed BC tandem of Deether Edralin and Mykki Caracut dispatched Edwin Montoya and Roxanne Lazaro, 21-3, 21-14.

CBC, however, had to default its men's BB game before Zeke Macario and Jon Costales collected another 3 points after a hard-earned 21-20, 21-20 win in the men's BC division.

Taga earned 2 points after the usual pairing of Loyda Ito and Shirley Kim escaped with a thrilling 17-21, 21-12, 21-18 triumph over Angie Ito and Havika Farro.

CBC, against Golden Racquets, did not need to flex its muscles in the women's AA and BC doubles divisions as Jen Savellano and Janelle Pangilinan hardly broke a sweat in a 21-8, 21-13 demolition of Ana Alvarez and Ana Omori in the women's AA. In the BC doubles, Malasarte joined Farro in dealing Marylyn Montano and Merlie Savellano a 21-13, 21-11 beating.

Malasarte also teamed up with Pangilinan in pulling off a 14-21, 21-11, 21-16 win over Alvarez and Cheng Saturno.

CBC surrendered a point to Golden Racquets after Galvez and Jeremi Montenejo needed three sets in disposing off Jojo Savellano and Gary Bandoja.

Golden Racquets added 3 more points following Saturno and Lucelle Lampera's 21-8, 21-8 decision over the tandem of Patricia Abantao and CBC new recruit Jerah Castillo.

Taga, in its game against Shirley's, scored wins in the women's AA and BC match-ups while dropping the women's AB and BB pairings. Shirley's also won Saturday's final match in the men's AB category behind Jerry Hibi and Jeff Riman, 21-10, 21-11.

The Shirley's pair of Lani Abuel and Windy Fernandez opened the team's pairing against Taga with a two-game win over Loyda Ito and Elna Curate, 21-11, 21-11, before Abuel's partnership with Anette Ta produced a 16-21, 21-15, 21-17 loss against Ito and Elna Curate.

Villaflor and Lani Santos gave Taga 3 points following a 21-13, 21-13 decision over Jaja Bocago and Vilma Reyes. Bocago bounced back in the next game as she partnered with Fernandez in completing a 21-16, 20-21, 21-14 victory over Kim and Curate.

Action resumed last night with matches in the men's BB and BC, mixed BC and BB, and men's CC divisions. Results were unavailable at press time.

2014 All Schools Cross Country Championships

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ

Mason Fruit of Marianas High School poses with his third place medal in the boys U18 division of last month's 2014 All Schools Cross Country Championships held at the American Memorial Park.

Alan Zhao of Agape Christian School poses with his second place medal in the U18 boys division.

Saipan Southern High School's Seiya Eda wins the gold medal to complete his dominant run in the boys U18 division this year.

Carol Lee smiles as she wins her first gold medal in the girls U12 category.

Seung Ji Paik, left, and Sean Lee, which helped Saipan Community School win the U10 boys division title, pose with their trophy.

Vincent Tudela smiles after receiving the second place medal in the boys U14 category.

Saipan Community School's Mateo Guerrero, right poses with his silver medal in the boys U12.

Saipan Community School's Kaden Church, right smiles after getting the boys U10 gold medal, which Northern Marianas Athletics Elias Rangamar presented.

Northern Marianas Athletics official Eli Rangamar, left, awards a medal to one of the U8 girls participants.

Agape Christian School students pose with their trophy in the boys U14 division.

Patriots vs Packers could be Super Bowl preview

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4-peat for MP United U18

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club U18 survived a gallant stand from Tan Holdings FC to eke out a 4-3 come-from-behind win and notch the championship in the 2014 FA Youth Challenge Cup last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The close victory allowed MP United to extend its reign in the season-ending tournament as the club's U18 squad has won all four editions of the event.

Jehn Joyner and Tanapon Unsa scored two goals apiece in the title win, working doubly hard on offense as they battled back and foiled Tan Holdings FC's bid for an upset.

Tan Holdings FC boosted its chances of dethroning MP United after leading at halftime, 2-1. Tan Holdings got the two goals off penalty kicks from Sean Perez and Kautong Omengkar. Perez put Tan Holdings on the board, as he rushed to the ball and was fouled by the latter's goalie Christopher Aninzo. Perez then connected the penalty kick in the ninth minute with the ball rolling past the right side of Aninzo

Perez continued to be aggressive and paved the way for

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United U18's Jehn Joyner tries to get away from heavy traffic as three Tan Holdings FC players defend him during the first half of their title match in the 2014 FA Youth Challenge Cup last Saturday at the Oleai Sports

Sister act in girls U12 finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A sibling battle emerged in the girls U12 singles division of the 6th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic with Conatsu Kaga showing no love lost to younger sister Coume in cruising to a 6-2, 6-3 win in their title match yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

The all-Kaga finale was arranged after Conatsu and Coume won their Friday and Saturday matches. Conatsu was at the top half of the draw, seeded first in the nine-team field, and disposed off Erika Tuttle, 6-3, 6-0, to march into the semis against Maria Gregoire. Tuttle forced a quarterfinals date with Conatsu after a 6-0, 7-5 victory over Hye Jin Elliot, while Gregoire made it to the semis after a straight set win over Susan Sablan, 6-2, 7-5. In the semis, Conatsu eased past Gregoire, 6-1, 6-1, to set up a finals date with her sister, who eliminated Tiara Imai, 6-3, 6-2, to move into the semis against Riko Oijima. Ojima recorded the lone three-set win in the draw with her 4-6, 6-3, 10-5 triumph over Ellie Epley, but the former was eventually booted out of

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Coume Kaga returns to Riko Ojima during their semis game in the girls U12 singles division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts last Saturday.

SBC still on top despite bye

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Badminton Club drew a bye last Saturday but remain on top as the chasing pack failed to rack up the needed wins to catch the defending champion in the second week of the 2014 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the TSL Sports Complex .

SBC found Golden Racquets to be an easy opponent completing its domination on Friday with another 14-1 romp to hike its record to 45-15. The four-peat seeking team won four of the matches played after only two games to score the easy win. SBC will next face Community Badminton Club, composed of youth players and newcomers, on Dec. 5 and 6.

Taga Badminton Club is 14 wins behind SBC with a 31-34 record, which is one victory ahead of third running CBC's 30-15 slate. Golden Racquets completes the standings in the 8th edition of the annual team tournament with a 21-39

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JON PEREZ
Community Badminton Club's Nicole Malasarte tries to make a forehand return during her and Havika Farro's game against Merlie Savellano and Marylyn Montano in the 2014 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the TSL Sports Complex last Saturday.